

Hafa Adai!

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Torres: NMI doing best to ease reliance on CWS

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the CNMI is trying its best to employ more U.S.-eligible workers and ease its reliance on foreign workers in a written statement before the U.S. Senate Committee

on Energy and Natural Resources' public hearing this morning on a bill to extend and expand the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

Torres cited U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services statistics and statistics obtained from the Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Department of Labor.

The public hearing tackled Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) S. 2325, which seeks to extend the transitional period.

See TORRES on Page 4

39 Japanese remains cremated in Marpi

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Japan Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties cremated 39 Japanese remains yes-

terday at the Banadera Trail in Marpi.

It marked the first time World War II remains were cremated in a formal ceremony on Saipan.

The association has been working diligently to locate and repatriate

all 70,000 Japanese servicemen and civilians who lost their lives during World War II so they can finally be brought home to their loved ones.

According to Japanese consul to

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Under the theme "Live Your Culture, Love All Cultures," approximately 250 students gathered for the annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit held last Jan. 25 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

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NATION

The engineer killed in a train crash in South Carolina visited a counselor to help him cope after being rattled in a previous wreck less than a year before.

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LIFE & STYLE

John Mahoney, who as the cranky, blue-collar dad in "Frasier" played counterpoint to pompous sons Frasier and Niles, has died. Mahoney was 77.

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Local

Businesses express concern with fire lane regulations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Some business owners and residents of Garapan yesterday expressed their concerns with the Feb. 26 implementation of fire lane regulations.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services held a discussion with business owners and the public about the implementation of the fire lane regulations of the Public Law 19-69 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Azucena Hall yesterday afternoon.

John Lee, owner of Cha Café, said it's them as business owners and residents of Garapan who asked for a public hearing for cooperation among DFEMS, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Public Works.

Lee in an interview said DFEMS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita flatly stated "no" as the implementation of the regulations is going to happen on the 26th "no matter what."

Lee said the implementation of the fire lanes is for the public safety, but what's actually going on is it's making it more dangerous.

"We are the ones suffering



and we are the ones telling them but they don't want to listen," Lee said.

"It's more dangerous because if you don't cooperate and build more parking spaces before you implement such a rule there is no parking right now and you are taking away more parking," he said.

Lee said what will happen is cars will park inside the small alleys.

"It only takes one car to stop a truck or an ambulance from going to an emergency spot. If you are causing more congestion inside the small alleys it doesn't matter if the big streets

are open," he pointed out. Lee said it's the small alleys that need to be addressed.

"If there is fire and a fire truck can't go in, many people would die and it happened recently in Seoul," he said.

"So if they don't want to cooperate and build the parking space and then take away the parking space, then you are setting yourself for a disaster," Lee said.

He stated that government agencies are pointing to each other, "they said DPW (Department of Public Works), DPS (Department of Public Safety)."

Lee said many years ago

government leaders they were going to build a traffic signal on the hotel street.

"And now they said they gonna build the infrastructure, but they should build the infrastructure and then do this rule. This is horrible," Lee said.

Norita said the discussion is a public education or outreach to the community here in Garapan.

Norita said they passed out fliers last week advising the residents and businesses in Garapan and to the general public, to come over, so they can tell them where the fire lane designations are, the authority behind it, and eventually other designated fire lanes that are going to be

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services commissioner Claudio K. Norita listens to some concerns raised by owners of businesses in Garapan about the Feb. 26 implementation of fire-lane regulations during a discussion at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Azucena Hall yesterday afternoon.

occurring in the CNMI, and answer their questions.

"Obviously there are great some concerns about that they are losing parking," he said.

Norita said as he mentioned several times, "life safety trumps convenience."

The commissioner said the parking that people are used to are those parking on the main highway.

"Those are the concerns about," he said, adding that DFEMS does not designate parking fire lane on the private property and designate only on the public highway access.

"And that's where they have a concern because some of them are used to having so much parking for their businesses and that's on public highway and that's the issue," Norita said.

At the discussion, Norita also talked about the violation,

the towing, fees, and the fines.

"At the end of the day, this is not that because the department wants to designate fire lanes for the heck of it," he said.

Norita said they look at the access roads that lead to fire-fighting and delivery of their emergency vehicles or trucks specifically.

"We look at those areas and we found out where the chokeholds are, where the problems are, where people are parking are on the highway, leaving limited space for the trucks or emergency vehicles to maneuver," he said.

With that, Norita said, they started to designate the fire lanes and paint them.

Norita said they are advising the public that by Feb. 26, the fire lane will be effective and DFEMS will start citing people and start towing vehicles.

He said most of the complaints at the discussion is loss of parking, but that people should need to understand those parking are on public highway and not on private property.

"We are trying to clear the roadway so that fire trucks can access it," he said.

Citation is \$150, towing costs \$250, and storage fee is 20 a day.

Detainee at DOC allegedly conceals 'ice' in her sports bra

A female detainee at the Department of Corrections in Susupe was allegedly found in possession of 0.8 in gross of methamphetamine or "ice" that she concealed in her sports bra and in a pillow last Sunday.

Shaina Deleon Guerrero Castro, 18, was brought before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for bail hearing on illegal possession of a controlled substance charge.

Camacho imposed a \$20,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Feb.

12 at 1:30pm.

According to CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Maridel T. Camacho, last Sunday at 2:18pm two detainees approached a Corrections officer and informed that another detainee, Castro, disclosed to them that she had an "ice" in her sports bra.

Two Corrections officers then immediately conducted a strip search and cell search where they found a small bag containing white powdery substance in a DOC pillow issued to Castro.

Camacho stated in her re-

port that a narcotics field test confirmed that the substance was presumptive positive with meth.

Camacho said during an interview Castro stated she was arrested last Saturday and was later found in possession of "ice" at DOC.

Castro allegedly confessed she got the "ice" from a man and that she hid it under her sports bra to prevent it from being detected at DOC.

The report did not mention the charges that led to Castro's arrest last Saturday. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Port of Tinian renaming considered

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A bill renaming the Port of Tinian after the late Tinian mayor Jose Pangelinan San Nicolas has been introduced in the Senate.

Recognizing that the harbor was a "significant area to the wellbeing and economic stability for residents and visitors to the Second Senatorial District," Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) introduced the bill, which was

cosponsored by Sens. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) and Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian), who was also a former mayor of Tinian.

San Nicolas passed away at the age of 67 back in 2013 after having open-heart sur-

gery in the Philippines. He served as Tinian mayor from 2006 to 2010

A few of San Nicolas' accomplishments include the erection of SN-5 Shipping Company back in 1990, which is a company that had

the intention to provide Tinian residents with cheaper alternatives to imported dried goods, raw materials, vehicles, and other essential commodities.

To this day, SN-5 still continues operation.

The Tinian Harbor, which was constructed during World War II and is also known as the

Tinian Harbor, sustained damage and deterioration, causing it to be dangerous to the residents. Back in 2006, San Nicholas declared Tinian to be on a state of emergency after finding out that the Tinian Harbor was damaged due to the Tinian outer seawall.

The Senate has yet to act on the bill.

DCCA: Legislation needed to strengthen respite care services

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter recently met with officials from the Northern Marianas College School of Education and Nursing Program to discuss a partnership for respite care services.

Respite care is a service provided to children and adults with chronic or terminal illnesses, disabilities or those at risk of abuse and neglect. Respite care serves to provide temporary relief to unpaid primary caregivers for the purpose of stability, time-off, and preservation of care.

"We see an opportunity to use the respite care program to benefit nursing school students and improve collaboration for training of respite care providers. There is a recently entered into memorandum of understanding with the Developmental Disabilities Council, placing the provision of respite care services under DCCA, as

well as legislation to place the respite care program permanently under the DCCA. To that end, we have been working on putting together all of the pieces. This has included coordinating training for staff, developing a program model, organizing training for respite care providers, setting up a respite care center, and working with partners who will promote and implement these services," Hunter said.

Office of Aging director Walter Manglona earlier noted that the Caregiver/Respite Care Program began through funding from the National Family Caregiver Service Program, which assisted family members caring for the elderly by providing short-term relief to all eligible caregivers.

"Caregivers are an essential part of our community, especially as it pertains to caring for our *man'amko*. Many caregivers, especially those

within the family have the best interests of their loved ones at heart. However, it is with respite care that we can ensure caregivers pay attention to their own physical and mental wellness, and get proper rest to continue to provide care," Manglona said.

Hunter added that with the proposal of House Bill 20-140, respite care services will be centralized and strengthened for the benefit of the entire Commonwealth.

"A respite care partnership will ensure that family members and other caregivers supporting older individuals are able to provide adequate services to individuals in need. Previously, the Office on Aging provided respite care to alleviate stress and prevent burn out, to each registered caregiver, but this legislation further identifies local training resources and recruiting of respite care providers.

We can further ensure quality services and development for not just the elderly, but children and individuals with developmental disabilities, and those who are homebound. With this legislation, we can look toward lengthening the lifespan of the respite care program and leverage existent resources under the department," Hunter said.

CNMI Respite Program coordinator Jack Sablan noted that the provision of respite care services has been proven to reduce abuse and neglect of individuals in permanent care and increase the mental and physical health and well-being of caregivers.

"With an understanding of some of the unique challenges in our community, we are not only developing a homebound care program, but we are already nearing completions on the renovation of a respite

care facility, where clients can be dropped for scheduled respite services. We will also be developing contingents of respite care providers on Tinian and Rota to ensure all of our communities are served," Sablan said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres emphasized that integrating and establishing respite care services within the department helps develop community resources and bridges the gap between the aging population, childcare, and youth services.

"Caretaking is ingrained into our culture and formally establishing the authority for respite care services fills an ongoing need in healthcare.

We see that childcare services under the Childcare Development Fund have improved through their pilot training and development outreach. I look forward to seeing that our community members who need the additional assistance have a central agency to go to. At the same time, we will create opportunities for our local college to explore caregiving and improve our awareness towards the needs of our elderly and our diverse community. This foresight is truly the gift of reciprocity which ultimately benefits families, service providers, and our community in the long-run," Torres said.

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Group behind Earhart memorial seeks assistance from Rotary Club

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument Committee Inc. presented their current project to the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday in hopes that they could assist in the construction of an 18-foot tall Amelia Earhart monument.

Yesterday, its president, Rep. Donald Barcenas (R-Saipan), said that the committee was established in February 2017, but was incorporated in September.

The committee is passionate about building a memorial that would honor the memory of the first aviatrix to circumnavigate the earth that allegedly survived World War II and lived out her days on Saipan.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Amelia Earhart Memorial Monument Inc. president Rep. Donald Barcenas (R-Saipan) presents the group's project during the weekly Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday.

The group is looking for funding of a little over \$200,000 to complete the monument. The committee has already submitted a letter to the governor, a request for funding to the Legislature, a request for funding to the Saipan and Northern Islands

Legislative Delegation, and will also be meeting with the Marianas Visitors Authority committee to discuss assistance for the project.

"We were originally looking for a budget of \$150,000 but Marianas Visitors Authority chair for destination

enhancement wanted us to make the statue bigger...the original proposed statue was 12 feet and they wanted bigger so we need to get a quotation for an 18-foot statue," said Barcenas.

According to Barcenas, he is now also looking at seeking

force," said Torres. "The bill provides for protections of U.S. workers in our labor force through measures that are necessary for the CNMI to more adequately hire and retain U.S. workers. The creation of wage standards, such as the prevailing wage, was a position I have supported in our most recent 902 consultations and is necessary to ensure wages remain competitive enough to entice U.S. workers and that the presence of foreign workers under the CW-1 program do not reduce opportunities for U.S. citizens. Additionally, the requirement for employers to first seek a foreign labor certification is a long-awaited component of the transition period, that can allow for greater targeting of U.S. training efforts and properly transition occupations critical to the economy as more U.S. workers are recruited and trained," he said.

In his written statement, Torres also said that the U.S. Public Law 110-229, or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, changed the economy of the CNMI. "The year following Public Law 110-229, the CNMI economy contracted by an astonishing 17.5 percent. What followed were years of severe economic depression, reduced government revenues and [fewer] opportunities for employment for all residents," said Torres.

He added that since 2014, the process to revive the economy and undoing the several years of economic decline started to show real progress.

"We saw more businesses open and more jobs become available. This growth occurred within the federal control of immigration and has shown that we can both work toward transitioning foreign workers and building a viable economy successfully if we do it together," Torres said.

Legacy workers equally as important

Murkowski's S.2325 also included a provision that allowed workers who have been utilizing the CW program since fiscal year 2014 to be eligible for the CW-3 permit, which is renewed at an interval of three years compared to annual renewals of the CW-1.

According to Torres, several workers who are eligible to work through the CW-3 permit have been in the CNMI since before the CW

program's establishment in 2008.

"These individuals are a part of our community and their expertise and knowledge will be crucial toward providing the next generation of U.S. workers the on-the-job training that will be essential for the success of our economy," he said.

Besides meeting with the committee in Washington, D.C., Torres, Demapan, and members of NMBAC also met with the U.S. House counterpart to Murkowski, Congressman Robert Bishop (R-UT), who chairs the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources.

"The opportunity to speak directly to the chairman of the House Committee that has jurisdiction over our islands was vital toward advocating for the stability of our economy. We provided information to chairman Bishop about the role foreign workers play in providing more jobs and opportunities for U.S. citizens and the important safeguards the NMI U.S. Workforce Act puts in place to protect U.S. workers. Overall, I am heartened by chairman Bishop's support of our economy and the needs of our people," said Torres in a statement.

Demapan, who was with Torres at the time, said that their meeting with Bishop to convey the importance of continuing the CNMI upward economy growth was "comforting."

"It is comforting to have chairman Bishop's recognition and appreciation that the Commonwealth is not seeking a federal bailout, but simply a legislative fix that will give the CNMI government and businesses the resources to further strengthen our economy and provide more opportunities for our people," said Demapan.

assistance from the local Rotary Club and other possible resources.

Barcenas said it would serve as good exposure for the Commonwealth because there have been so many theories concocted to answer the long unanswered question: "what happened to Amelia Earhart?" and the committee strongly believes that the truth was Earhart contracted a disease before dying on Saipan.

The monument is intend-

ed to lure in more tourists thus expanding the CNMI economy.

Barcenas said even if there may be some individuals out there who are still skeptical about the Earhart theory, the monument is not to sway their beliefs but just to honor the fact that Saipan is a part of Earhart's journey around the world.

The group hopes to complete the Amelia Earhart monument project this year.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

the CNMI Kinji Shinoda, it is their obligation to bring home every single Japanese serviceman and civilian so that they may experience eternal peace.

"Today it was only 39 so we are still trying to find more Japanese remains," he said. "It is very important to our government and to our people to bring home all the remains back to Japan."

Shinoda said the community should expect more cremation ceremonies until every single Japanese remain is brought back to Japan.

SANDCASTLE

From Page 1

longer feasible as Hyatt has other plans with the area where SandCastle is currently housed.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said the MVA helps promote SandCastle to offshore partners, media, and visitors and to lose the brand is sad.

"We are sad that SandCastle is not renewing. They definitely give the CNMI a different and unique type of entertainment and we hope that someone will fill the spot that SandCastle will leave behind," he said.

Concepcion added that MVA supports Hyatt Regency on whatever they decide to build in the area where SandCastle is now. "We know that Hyatt makes the best judgment in business decisions and we will support it."

The Baldyga Group said it does not have any plans of continuing the show in another location on Saipan.

"While we really like Saipan, we are going to take a break for awhile although we may consider coming back in the future," Baldyga said.

"We plan to come back maybe in a year or so as we look for other locations. We are not re-opening immediately because we would like to consider other entertainment options on Saipan," Baldyga added.

SandCastle Saipan is known

"There are already grandchildren and great grandchildren who don't know about them (World War II servicemen), it is very hard to find them here in the CNMI," he said.

Shinoda is also seeking help from the CNMI government to notify the Japanese government through the JARRWC if possible Japanese remains are located or heard of.

There are currently about 31,500 Japanese remains that have yet to be located on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

Individuals can reach the JARRWC's Saipan office at 285-7283, their Tinian office at 287-2857, or their main office at 813-3581-2755.

for its Las Vegas-style dinner and entertainment experience that showcases magic, illusions, beautiful Las Vegas dancing and singing showgirls, acrobats, and the show's highlight is the presentation of the white Bengal tiger that guests can take a photo with after the show.

The Baldyga Group extends its gratitude for the continued patronage of the people of Saipan on SandCastle Saipan's shows.

"We have enjoyed our time [on] Saipan and especially the people of the CNMI with who we have been appreciative of their tremendous community support we have had while here. I suppose it feels like leaving home but we are just a short flight away and we will continue to visit and to enjoy the beauty and people of Saipan," Baldyga said.

"As for future business plans on Saipan, time will tell. A lot will depend on the tourist arrivals and visitor demographics...We are considering many other entertainment options," Baldyga added.

He cites some challenges that they face when it comes to competition in the tourism industry.

"Some of the travel agents have become direct competitors in the optional tour space so that can make things a bit more challenging than in Guam for example. We will focus on our Guam business right now, but we look forward to the possibility of returning perhaps with a different type of product," Baldyga said.

TORRES

From Page 1

riod of the CNMI by 10 more years, ultimately also extending several essential programs under it such as the foreign worker program

"In fiscal years 2012 and 2013, the top two job classifications listed were for marketing and sales, and food service occupations. In 2016, the top two jobs were in construction and building trades, which speaks toward the growth of our economy and the demand for new construction. Since 2013, [NMC] successfully launched its four-year bachelor's degree in business, with training in accounting. This timeframe saw accounting positions in the CW program fall from eighth highest in demand to 15th in 2016," he said.

Torres added that Murkowski's request to the Governmental Accountability Office to conduct a study on the CNMI's reliance on foreign labor states that the foreign workers compose nearly half of the total labor workforce of the CNMI, an overall 11-percent increase compared to 2009.

"In today's economy, more U.S. workers are building greater levels of economic growth than ever before, and this success is worth continuing," he stated.

Aside from Torres, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp., and CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente also attended this morning's public hearing.

"I believe this bill is shaped upon these lessons learned and will allow us to be better partners in our shared goal of building a strong economy through a strong U.S. work-

United cuts more flights to Guam

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Last week, United Airlines announced plans to cut Guam flights from China and Japan. Flights from Shanghai, China to Guam will stop on March 22, 2018 and flights from Sendai, Japan will cease on April 1, 2018.

United Airlines also announced it will cut other Japan destinations flying to Guam due to weak demand on those routes.

According to Guam Visitors Bureau president and CEO Nathan Denight, they are working closely with United Airlines in spite of service cuts.

"We understand the situation. It's not business as usual. We are working closely with United and our industry stakeholders to aggressively position and promote Guam as a destination of choice for Asian travelers," he said.

"We remain committed to the Japan market as we recognize the challenges, particularly with the weakening Yen. The tourism industry is Guam's economic engine, and we continue to step up our efforts to aggressively market Guam in all of our Asian markets, most especially Japan," he added.

Aside from strengthening ties with service flights, GVB is confident in Guam as a brand and how the Hafa Adai spirit campaign has helped tourism reach new heights.

"While FY 2017 was a record-breaking year for tourism, we also need to understand that our visitor mix has changed. Japan remains as a very important market to all stakeholders in this industry," Denight said.

"We (GVB) will continue to work together with United's offices in Japan. We thank United for their commitment to maintaining their Guam hub and for supporting our local economy," Denight added.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said Guam is the CNMI's sister island and whatever happens in Guam affects the CNMI.

"MVA is aware the tourists from Japan is shrinking around the world. We sympathize with our brothers and sisters in Guam," he said.

"We also see some form of cuts in the CNMI in the future so our strategy is to be strong at enticing new airlines to fly our way. We call on the Commonwealth

Development Authority and Commonwealth Ports Authority to make the CNMI profitable and give incentives to

new airlines," he added.

United's announcement comes five months after Delta Air Lines announced a

total pullout from its Guam-Narita service.

In its official statement last September, Hiroko Okada

of Delta Air Lines corporate communications department said that Delta has decided to discontinue its service be-

tween Narita and Guam by January 2018, as the demand has not been strong enough to sustain the route.


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Transmission: Automatic
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Color: SILVER

\$13,995

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Transmission: Automatic
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Color: WHITE

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Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 36970
Color: RED/BLACK

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Engine: 2.0 L DOHC 16 valves
Transmission: Automatic
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Color: BLUE/WHT

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2016 KIA SOUL EX
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Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.0 LTR DOHC
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 22,050 MILES
Color: BLUE/WHITE

\$18,995

2013 NISSAN MAXIMA SV
Stock# DC843965
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 LITER
Transmission: Automatic CVT
Est. Mileage: 35550
Color: BLACK

\$18,995

2012 NISSAN Xterra S
Stock# CC527339
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 41328
Color: Brilliant Silver

\$18,995

2015 NISSAN QUEST S
Stock# F9123375
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5L V6 DOHC
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 18425
Color: White

\$20,995

2015 NISSAN QUEST S
Stock# F9126212
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 17320
Color: White

\$20,995

2016 KIA SPORTAGE EX
Stock# G7840712
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 19778
Color: Black

\$21,795

2014 NISSAN MAXIMA SV
Stock# EC434607
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 LTR 6-CYL
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 25,775
Color: WHITE

\$22,995

2015 NISSAN PATHFINDER PLATINUM
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Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 3.5L V6 CVT
Transmission: AUTO
Est. Mileage: 1198
Color: BLUE

\$36,995

2016 NISSAN MAXIMA SV
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Engine: 24 valve 3.5L V-6
Transmission: AUTO
Est. Mileage: 1,898
Color: DEEP BLUE PEARL

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2 allegedly raped a 52-year-old woman

Two men were arrested on Monday for allegedly raping a 52-year-old woman at a house on Saipan.

Jaime Always, 46, and Weiner Sony, 28, were arrested for sexual assault in the

first degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed yesterday a \$30,000 cash bail each on Always and Sony.

Preliminary hearing will be on Feb. 12 at 1:30pm.

According to police detective Buddy S. Igitol, police officers responded to a house on Sunday afternoon to investigate a reported sexual assault incident.

Upon arrival at the scene,

the officers met a woman, who stated that two men known to her raped her.

The woman identified Always and Sony, who were found by the officers still sleeping inside the house

where the rape allegedly happened.

The woman said after the rape, she made an excuse to leave the premises and used the phone from a nearby restaurant to call the police.

Officers interviewed the restaurant's employee, who stated that the woman came in

and asked to use the phone to report a crime.

The employee stated that the woman looked scared and was shaking.

Igitol said Always and Sony were interviewed and admitted having sex with the woman, but that it was consensual. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Company leasing building says property encroaching on land leased to US govt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company leasing a three-story concrete building in Garapan has learned that portions of the structure are encroaching on property leased to the U.S. government.

Joint Marketing Saipan Inc., through counsel Tiberius Mocanu, is suing the property's owner, Emerenciana Sonoda, for breach of contract.

Joint Marketing asked the Superior Court to issue an order granting the company its rights pursuant to the terms in the lease agreement with Sonoda to "use the portion of the rent payments due at closing to cure such defect as necessary for Sonoda to convey a good and marketable title, and deduct that sum from the amount due at closing."

Joint Marketing requested the court requiring Sonoda to pay expenses incurred, including attorney's fees and costs pursuant to the terms in the lease agreement.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to contact Sonoda for comments.

Mocanu stated in the complaint that Sonoda is the fee simple owner of a lot in Garapan that contains 1,022 square meters located next to a property leased by the CNMI government to the U.S. government.

Mocanu said Sonoda's property, located on the corner of Micro Beach Road and Kalachucha Road, touches portions of the southern end of the American Memorial Park.

Mocanu said that on Jan. 6, 1983, the CNMI leased approximately 177 acres, which

is 72 hectares or 720,000 square meters of property on Saipan by the Tanapag Harbor to the U.S. government.

The American Memorial Park sits on the property leased by the CNMI government to the U.S. government.

In 1989, Mocanu said, a three-story concrete building was erected on Sonoda's property.

The north boundary of the building contains a concrete walkway extending across the length of the north side of the building.

Mocanu said that sometime in 1993, the Department of Public Lands discovered during a survey that portions of the north and east side of the three-story building encroached on to the land leased to the U.S. government.

Mocanu said during the sur-

vey it was also discovered that the east end of the middle one-story concrete building encroached on to the land leased to the U.S. government.

DPL notified Sonoda of the encroachment.

In December 2016, Joint Marketing, through its manager Hua Feng Guo, entered into an agreement for a 55-year lease of the property.

Joint Marketing paid Sonoda \$215,000 as an earnest money deposit when the agreement was signed. The remaining balance was to be paid, and closing was to be held on Dec. 19, 2017.

Mocanu said Sonoda did not disclose the encroachments to Joint Marketing.

Mocanu said that on May 12, 2017, Joint Marketing discovered during a survey that the three-story building

encroached on the property leased to the U.S. government.

Mocanu said Joint Marketing then notified Sonoda of the encroachments and requested that she resolve/clear them before the closing date.

The lawyer said pursuant to the agreement, Sonoda has the obligation to deliver good and marketable title, free of defect, on the closing date.

He said Joint Marketing is unable to secure title insurance that would protect it against any lawsuit stemming from the encroachments onto public land.

Last Nov. 21, Joint Marketing wrote to Sonoda and informed her that it was prepared to close on Dec. 19, 2017, but that it was concerned that the encroachments would not be resolved before the closing date.

Joint Marketing proposed two possible options if the encroachments were not re-

solved before the closing date.

Joint Marketing proposed that the closing date be extended for a reasonable amount of time to allow Sonoda additional time to resolve the encroachments.

If Sonoda does not agree to an extension of the closing date, that Joint Marketing may exercise its right to cure the defect and deduct the amount it takes to cure from the purchase price.

On the Dec. 19, 2017 closing date, Mocanu said, Joint Marketing presented to Sonoda a check for \$1,585,000, the remainder of the purchase price.

Joint Marketing proposed that the closing date be extended for three months so that Sonoda may resolve the encroachment.

Mocanu said Sonoda refused an extension and maintained that the encroachment is not a cloud on the title.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPL-056(A-F)**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 07, 2018 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"INSURANCE ANNUAL PREMIUM FOR AUTOMOBILE (A), THE VESSEL (B), LIABILITY (C), PROPERTY CONTENTS (D), BURGLARY (E), WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION (F) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAND SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA OFFICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORY OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY, DPL**

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPW/TSWMD-055-CIF TINIAN**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 05, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "H" PICK UP TRUCK 4X4 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIVISION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (TINIAN BRANCH)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORY OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW**

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DCRM-051**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 05, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TALAKHAYA WATERSHED REVETRIFICATION PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISON OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORY OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ**

**/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Win Win Construction Co., (Saipan), Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Win Win Construction Co., (Saipan), Inc. is proposing to occupy an existing 3-storey building structure for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 22533 in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Jiang Zheng Group Inc. dba Shanghai Guest House

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING for Kuan Y. Leung dba KL Auto Shop

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Kuan Y. Leung dba KL Auto Shop is proposing to construct a new structure with 2 service bays for its Auto shop. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 H 47 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 20, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

BOH employees donate over \$7K to Red Cross

Bank of Hawaii team members in the CNMI recently donated over \$7,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter under the bank's Live Kokua Giving Campaign.

"These personal gifts are important to the Red Cross," said John Hirsh, ARC NMI Chapter director. "We receive support from the bank each year to support our humanitarian work. This donation is particularly meaningful as it reflects the generosity of each individual employee."

Hirsh said that Bank of Hawaii has been supporting the Red Cross here in the CNMI for more than 25 years.

"In addition to financial gifts, their BOH team hosts an aid station at our annual Walkathon," he said.

CNMI Bank of Hawaii vice president Rose Sumor said that Bank of Hawaii employees "enthusiastically participate in our 'Live Kokua Giving Campaign' each year. From choosing beneficiary organizations they're passionate about

to coming up with clever ideas for numerous department fundraisers and making personal donations, our employees work hard to support organizations making a difference in their communities. The Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross serves the people of Saipan and beyond, and I am proud to work alongside our BOH employees who recognize its value and choose to generously support it time and again." (*Saipan Tribune*)



Bank of Hawaii team members here in the CNMI donate to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter through the Live Kokua Giving Campaign.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UTILITY UPDATES

Water outage in Garapan

There is currently a water service interruption to all customers in Garapan from the Hotel Street Area to True Value Hardware on Beach Road and on Chalan Pale Arnold Road (Middle Road) from the 99 Cents Store to the Gualo Rai intersection.

The cause of the service interruption is due to the low water tank level of the Puerto Rico tank. Water operators of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are currently performing an assessment of all water wells that supply water to the tank and are assessing the areas for large leaks.

CUC encourages its customers in the Garapan areas to practice water conservation measures, such as turning off water tanks when they are full and/or leaking

and repairing any known water leaks on the customers' side of the water meter.

Water service hours are as follows for the Garapan Areas:

- Lower Navy Hill to the Commonwealth Health Center Corp.: 24-hours
- Garapan from Hotel Street to True Value Hardware (Beach Road): 6am to 10am
- Garapan from the 99 Cents to the Gualo Rai intersection (Middle Road): 6am to 10am

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (*CUC*)

Possible change in water pressure in Koblerville, Atingan, As Gonno and Afetnas

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be eliminat-

ing the direct feed water wells to the Koblerville community. CUC has been working in this area to improve water pressure in the distribution system since 2012. In the final phase of this project, CUC has made some important connections so that customers in the Koblerville, Atingan, As Gonno and Afetnas areas can be properly switched to the Isley tank service area. The switching process is expected to be completed on Feb. 8, 2018.

By serving water from the Isley tank, customers will get more reliable pressure and water service hours. Customers will not see the pressure spikes overnight or during low demand periods, resulting in a much more consistent system. Customers will continue to receive 24-hour water after the switch is completed. (*CUC*)

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (*CUC*)

Scheduled power interruption on Tinian

There will be a scheduled partial power interruption on Tinian in the areas of Marpo Valley, Carolinas Heights, Marpo Heights I & II and West Tinian Airport on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018, from 8am to 5pm.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to safely remove and replace pole top pins with insulators, power poles and transformers in the power distribution system.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Tinian (433-9264/5) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (*CUC*)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio
Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 01/18/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Conditional Use Application #2017-3788: Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. Conditional Use Application #2017-4598: Kuan Y. Leung dba KL Auto Shop is proposing to construct a new structure with 2 service bays for its Auto shop. This use is classified as "Gas Station, Light Repair" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 001 H 47 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
3. Conditional Use Application #2017-4958: Win Win Construction Co., (Saipan), Inc. is proposing to occupy an existing 3-storey building structure for staff housing. This use is classified as "Institutional Residential" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 22533 in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

C. Communication

D. Old Business

1. Conditional Use Application #2017-4537: YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast
2. Application for extension (Adult Gambling Machine Business):
 - a. File #2017-5210: Jin Ho Corp. dba MGM Poker
 - b. File #2017-5275: DKK Inc. dba Dollars Poker & Winners Poker
 - c. File #2017-5299: Sky Corporation dba Dandan Poker
 - d. File #2017-5300: Sky Corporation dba JL Poker
 - e. File #2017-5301: JSJ Company Ltd., dba KM Poker
 - f. File #2017-5303: 3 Js Corporation dba Joy Poker
 - g. File #2017-5322: Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller 3
 - h. File #2017-5323: Pacific Amusement Inc. dba High Roller 1
 - i. File #2017-5326: KSK Corporation dba Shany II Poker
 - j. File #2017-5364: LDK, Inc. dba Yuta Poker
 - k. Files #2017-5399: P&S Inc., dba 888 Poker
 - l. Files #2017-5400: P&S Inc., dba Orchid Poker
 - m. Winnerslife Inc. & Dan B. Choi dba SH II Poker
 - n. Winnerslife Inc. dba SH I Poker

E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement/Public Hearing Procedures)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Valentine's Day!

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Dozen Dozen Dozen

Half Dozen Red Roses Arrangements

Regular Deluxe

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For more information, please call 234-5593 or 235-8572

Commonwealth Zoning Board (Zoning Office)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Zoning Officer (1)

The Zoning Office is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys and inspections for compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 3 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is \$28,000.00. The Application for Employment and Checklist of required documents may be picked up at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

Application submittals should be addressed to Therese T. Ogomoro, Zoning Administrator and may be sent via e-mail to therese.ogomoro@zoning.gov.mp or via Hand Delivery to the Zoning Office, located on the 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan. Application packages must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, a resume, copy of diploma/certificates, and all other required documents as listed in the Employment Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicant will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening.

Deadline for submission of applications and required documents is no later than 4:30pm, Thursday, February 22, 2018.

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Torres appoints 2 to CPUC

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed last Friday two persons to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, the agency that governs all utility companies and agencies in the CNMI.

Benjamin Borja was appointed CPUC representative for Tinian, while James Diego Benavente was appointed CPUC representative for Saipan.

The CPUC is a five-member governing body that regulates the rates and services of public utilities such as electricity

supply, water supply, and telecommunications in the CNMI.

Back in Aug. 17, 2018, Torres withdrew his appointment of Benavente due to the latter's plan of pursuing an engineering license. The governor's communication did not specify whether Benavente had already secured a license.

Borja was appointed by Torres last Friday as well. In his transmittal letter to both House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), Torres said Borja is "qualified to fulfill the vital responsibili-

ties of the [CPUC]."

While no further information was provided, the CPUC has been stagnant since the expiration of the term of its last commissioner, Dave Guerrero, last year.

In a statement from the administration last week, Torres said he is also considering the reappointment of former commissioners to the CPUC. The last members of the CPUC included former chair Joseph Guerrero, Oscar Quitugua, and James Guerrero.

The CPUC has been inactive for about a year.

ANA grant training this Wednesday

The Administration for Native Americans, through its Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance provider in Hawaii, Ka'anani'au, is once again offering a free workshop to help participants understand the ins and outs of exactly what ANA reviewers will be looking for as they review grant applications.

This year, Okeanos Marianas Sustainable Sea Transport LTD managing director Emma Perez will be conducting the presentations instead of a video teleconference as was done during last year's workshop.

According to Perez, applying for the ANA grant is a competitive process but doable given the right training.

Perez is encouraging the community to come out and join her for the upcoming workshop that will be held from Feb. 7 to 8 at the Northern Marianas College.

"It's money that could really help the community but people need to know how to one, write the grants and administering the grant is a whole other story but I am really hoping to entice people to come listen," she said.

In these training sessions,

participants will learn how to build a strong grant application, go over ANA's grant scoring criteria, and review submission requirements from the latest funding opportunity announcement.

The 500 Sails Organization and the Carolinian Affairs Office were granted over \$580,000 through ANA for a span of three years.

Although you may come as a walk-in on the first day, to prepare enough materials, participants on all three islands are encouraged to register online at <http://anapacificbasin.org>. (Kimberly A. Bautista)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

CUC-RSQ-18-014

DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT, SURVEYING, CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, AND OTHER A&E PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water mains, sewer mains (gravity and pressure), lift stations, booster pumping stations, water storage reservoirs, treatment works, upgrade to existing facilities; providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specification, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, electrical inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Island of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and CUC. All work is subject to EPA & CUC review and pre-approval.

The RSQ package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RSQ package set. The RSQ package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective firms must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 18-014, Request for Statement of Qualifications" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2018.** Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firm are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firm due to lack of information or understanding of the Request for Statement of Qualifications requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This Request for Statements of Qualifications does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

All responses to this RSQ should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent, awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business and Engineering license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 23, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-010

MAUI 1 & 4 SHAFT WELLS MECHANICAL LIFT REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to design a method to rehabilitate the Maui 1 & 4 mechanical lifts; to rehabilitate the existing mechanical lifts and develop a safety plan for all required work in the shaft and tunnels in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **February 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-18-010 Maui 1 & 4 Shaft Wells Mechanical Lift Rehabilitation Project, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer, Jake Parker via email address jake.parker@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Wait. That was the blockbuster memo?

Wait. That's it? That's the blockbuster secret memo? That's the Four Pages of the Apocalypse, the document that's supposed to cleanse the FBI and shake the Mueller investigation to its core?

We're ... underwhelmed. There was no blockbuster in the four pages released by the House Intelligence Committee Friday. What those pages contained instead was an allegation that the FBI obtained a FISA surveillance warrant on Trump campaign adviser Carter Page based on information supplied by a source who didn't like Donald Trump.

Even that allegation might not be true. The FBI says the memo is rife with inaccuracies. So do Democrats in a rebuttal the same committee refuses to release. Also left out was any supporting documentation, such as the actual FISA application. Instead, what America got was speculation without evidence, accusations without facts, about a small part of a massive Russia investigation.

Really, that's it?

This is what Republicans thought was worth risking the good name of the FBI and its agents. This is what Donald Trump thought was worth further corroding his relationship with the nation's law enforcement agencies.

That last part, at least, shouldn't be surprising. Trump has long been at war with the FBI, along with the CIA and any agency he feels isn't sufficiently on his team. He apparently believes the memo helps justify his desire to fire Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, which would allow the president to find a friendlier replacement who could help slow or stop Robert Mueller's investigation.

The memo offers no such justification. It is classic conspiracy weaving and Talk Radio 101, a declaration that if one fraction of an FBI investigation has a sniff of partisanship, the whole probe must be tainted. The only people who will believe that are those who already have their eyes closed before reading it, because the president already has persuaded them the Russia probe is a political witch hunt.

In that way, allowing the memo's release was a clumsy political move on Trump's part. It had already done its job before Friday, prompting breathless alarm about the FBI and sowing doubt about the origins of Mueller's investigation. The smart play for Trump would have been to somberly keep the memo secret and let the spores of conspiracy continue to flourish in the dark.

Instead, the president turned on the light on. What did we learn? Not much. But the memo reminded us of plenty.

It reminded us that House Intelligence Chair Devin Nunes is a bumbling Trump sycophant who already had to step away from the Russia investigation once and now should be relieved of his chairmanship.

It reminded us which Republicans are willing to inflict foundational damage to our country's top law enforcement agency for the sake of protecting the president and their party.

It reminded us which Republicans (hello, Thom Tillis and Richard Burr) are willing to meekly watch them do so.

If anything, the memo might leave President Trump more vulnerable with the public. After all, it's hard not to wonder how desperate he must be to participate in such a political stunt.

Which is exactly what this was. The blockbuster secret memo is a dud. It's Geraldo's vault. It's Y2K. It's almost comical, except that it's something more. It's dangerous.

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The biggest tax cuts in history? Let's double-check that

Now we're firmly in the selling phase of the Republican tax plan, and President Donald Trump's constant refrain is that the cuts are "the biggest in history." History doesn't quite support his claim.

Ever since 1913, when the states ratified the 16th Amendment and thereby allowed Congress to levy an income tax, rates have been on a wild roller-coaster ride. The top rate on both individuals and corporations started at a mere 1 percent. Just two years later, Congress jacked up the top rate on individuals to 77 percent and the corporate rate to 12 percent. The rationale was the need to finance World War I. Wartime necessity was the primary justification for later tax hikes as well, including the jump to a top individual rate of 94 percent in 1944 and to a top corporate rate of 50.75 percent in 1951.

War-driven hikes left a lot of room for subsequent cuts. While serving as Treasury secretary, the banker-industrialist Andrew Mellon convinced Presidents Harding and Coolidge to cut marginal tax rates. He argued that tax cuts would revive the economy, lifting it out of the 1920-21 recession. They followed his advice. Harding cut the top individual rate from 73 percent to 58 percent. Coolidge followed suit, cutting the top income tax rate all the way down to 24 percent.

Analysts credit those tax cuts for the burst of economic activity in the mid-1920s, a period when gross domestic product growth averaged 4.7 percent and the national unemployment rate fell to 3.2 percent. The stock market tripled in value.

Neither Harding nor Coolidge pursued cuts in the corporate rate, however. On the contrary, Harding increased the corporate rate from 10 percent to 12.5 percent. Coolidge initially did the same, raising it to 13.5 percent, before reversing course and dropping it back to 12 percent in 1928. Not surprisingly, investment spending took a backseat to consumer spending in the Roaring Twenties.

President Kennedy was the next to take seriously the power of tax cuts to stimulate private-sector spending. He set the stage for the 1964 cut in the top individual rate from 91 percent to 70 percent and the drop in the corporate rate from 52 percent to 48

By BRAD SCHILLER

Los Angeles Times



Brad Schiller is an emeritus professor of economics at American University and author of "The Economy Today." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

percent. The GDP boomed in the following year, rising at a 6.5 percent clip. As the economy continued to grow, the unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent.

President Reagan took high tax rates personally. A successful actor and General Electric spokesman, he had confronted high marginal tax rates. He vowed that he would chop the top rate in half as president. And he did: He pushed Congress to cut the top rate from 70 percent at the beginning of his presidency to a low of 28 percent at the end of his second term. Percentage-wise, that was the biggest cut — 60 percent — in individual tax rate in history. (Sorry, Trump.)

Reagan also cut the corporate rate from 46 percent to 34 percent. The economy responded in kind, registering 6 percent growth in 1983 and 1984. Between 1982 and 1988, the unemployment rate was cut in half. And nonfarm employment increased by 15 million between 1982 and 1988, a remarkable achievement in an economy with a labor force only two-thirds of today's size.

When viewed in the context of these historical tax cuts, Trump's initiatives almost look puny. That is certainly the case with respect to the individual income tax. Trump has only cut the top marginal rate from 39.6 percent to 37 percent. That amounts to a 6.5 percent reduction, a measly gesture compared with his tax-cut predecessors.

On the corporate front, Trump does much better: The 40 percent cut in the top corporate rate is, in fact, the largest in history on a percentage basis. Clearly, he is relying on the business sector to lead an economic acceleration. But even his expectations are modest: Trump is heralding the prospect of 3 percent to 4 percent growth this year, a far lower performance than has occurred in the first year following earlier cuts.

Tax policy is not all about tax rates, much less the top marginal rates. The more generous provisions in the Trump package for investment expenses and repatriation may turn out to be more important sources of short-term investment stimulus. Nevertheless, a bit of history puts the president's boasts in perspective.

Anti-Trump author likes to hit, hates getting hit

By JAY AMBROSE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Mika Brzezinski is right now looking good, even if she did not come out so well in a recent "Saturday Night Live" sketch that poked satirical fun at her as more a mindless toady than a journalist while portraying her partner, Joe Scarborough, as self-absorbed. The two host MSNBC's commentary show "Morning Joe," and part of the skit was about an interview with Michael Wolff.

He's the author of "Fire and Fury," a book that climbed to the top of the New York Times' bestseller list of nonfiction books even though it is fictional. Well, not wholly so, but blatantly inaccurate in spots and dubious beyond that, according to media inspectors. Nevertheless, in its uninhibited trouncing of President Donald Trump, the book made Trump haters swoon. The sketch showed Brzezinski praising its truthfulness even though the actor playing Wolff hinted at guesswork.

Well, we now get back to real life and here is the real Brzezinski interviewing the real Wolff, who a while back had been on another show, that of self-worshipping TV host Bill Maher. He's a leftist

specializing in malodorous putdowns, such as once calling a pope a Nazi. In this instance, he was after dirt on Trump and Wolff was saying he was "absolutely sure" Trump was having an affair and that readers could discover his likely lover by examining his book.

Sure enough, news outlets identified one passage saying U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley "had become a particular focus of Trump's attention, and he of hers." Another passage said she thought she might be his successor after one term if she were submissive enough. Still another said Trump had been "spending a notable amount of time with Haley on Air Force One." All of this is an insinuation verging on an accusation, at least when joined with what Wolff told Maher.

Haley wasn't having any.

She said the Wolff assault was "highly offensive" and "disingusting." She said she had only been on Air Force One once and had never been alone with Trump there or anywhere else.

And so, when Wolff reappeared on "Morning Joe," Brzezinski took him on, reviewing this outrage as he insisted he had not done what he did. She then replied, "I'm going to go as far as to say that you might be having a fun time, playing a dancing game around this, but you're slurring a woman. It's disgraceful." When he kept it up, she shut him down. The interview was done.

Dismayed and forlorn, if richer every minute, Wolff was soon saying that the president who Wolff has identified as one of the worst lying, abusive monsters ever to happen in the universe was right about at least one thing: He was right about insults hurled at Brzezinski.

Wolff claimed he was set up, that he was being asked to admit a falsehood and volunteered that, after a previous appearance on the show, Brzezinski and Scarborough had wanted to gossip with him about Trump's sexual adventures. Interesting guy, huh? I am so glad he was taken down, especially on MSNBC, which often engages in Wolff-like, anti-Trump talk itself.

Of course, Brzezinski wasn't defending Trump. She was rightly defending Haley, and it fit in with so many who are now so sick of mistreatment of women. Whether intended or not, however, she was also underlining how some seem to think Trump's disregard of norms means everyone against him can also disregard them in their pursuit of his political end days.

This was a good moment for Brzezinski.

As for Wolff, he might want to take a look at a 1931 gangster movie in which a crook played by Edward G. Robinson issued a line that became famous: "You better quit this racket. You can dish it out, but you got so you can't take it no more."

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

Sapet Na Pinadesen Familia

Sumen dañkulu na sapet lumulumus manadan familia guine pot tagpapa' suetdu mientras hahatsa suetdun niha i man-sabiun I Deni' 1 80 pot sientu.

I ekspresiu gi matan niha anog i maliñgu na inaño-ghu yan esperansa (hope) gi disposision asuntun linahyan guine. Finaisen abiu ayudu ginen offisiat publiku gi hegsu' I Deni' ni appenas. Lau man-tañga i tropan I Deni' gi dichu finaisen i publicu pot kualidat linala' niha.

Kumu saina, makat giya guahu i pinadesen un' patgon piot 'nai mattu gi monedan yan nesessidat familia. Esta hu pokate linala' miserapble gi hinibehu ya ti listuyu' lumi'e mapadese ni famaguon-ta este na sapet diskuidu!

Gi halum este na mattiru ha hatsa suetdun niha i man-sabiun hegsu' I Deni' ocheta pot sientu, siñku pot sientu para empleau sibit, seru para i mangaige gi praibet. Sih mauleg sa' mahatsan maisa suetdun niha mientras man-ñgaha' hit kau umali'e mohon nesessidat-ta lokue'.

Kau man-malefa hamyu ni pinadesen i tautau ni man-u' uguñg pot kumahulu' fektus, kandet, apas hospitat yan gaselina? Nati guiya este siha na padre yan madre de familia i umususune suetdun popple taimanu linagnos federat haf' suetdun popple?

Estague' na aksion miyu muna' fañgentus i man-udun i señg-soñg siha. Siempre tali'e para manu uttimoña hinanau galaide' miyu. Baihu tachu na eleksion umesplika este desde radio, television yan gasetta para umatuñgu' ni tautau haf' hagas masus-pepecha pot betsan miyu!

Sattun Na Dos Pajaru

Ilegña patte gi kanta, "Para i sainamu muñga ingratu". Magahet, siña tita repara na apmam 'nai ha mattit siha mañaina-ta pot hita. Tat siniñgun ti ma-estira pot sattun na sensian obligasion, pueñge yan ha'ane, timamagtus na attension.

Tita li'e este siha na sakrifisiu pot man-famaguon hit. Otru asunto-ta. Dispues de man-mattu hit gi tareha-ta 'nai ta komprende finapus niha.

Hinanau familia, guaha ha' na patte 'nai barañka i katsada. Todu mañaua para uma-ataha maseha haf' na chinatsaga. Mas felis ayu na familia i hihot relasion niha. Ma-usune sakrifisiu pot interes todú.

U fattu ayu na ha'ane 'nai kada unu ha establese familiaña mismu. Ta diñgu i dos saina gi santatte pot obligasiona. Bes enkuando, ta bisita pot rinikonosen hinemu' niha. Ta kone' fama-

guon-ta guatu pot bendision.

Gi karera mas hihot i dos amku' desde primet pusuelun kafe 'an oga' an esta i oran sena yan deskansu 'an pueñge. Huñgan, mas dispasiu gi inamku' niha lau motmut suanu yan amtau kinemprenden niha pot linala'. Man-riku akonsehu yan konsuelu.

Un' dia mattu madisponen niha. Hinanau niha kulan dos pajaru ni gumupu hulu' gi lañget ma-adotnan ñaihon i mapagahes antes de u faliñgu gi gua'ot iya paraisu. I lagu' pinite mun'a fresku i mapagahes gi kareran niha. Hinanau dos pajaru!

Nahlalañg: Teñga gi chagchag oga'an, hu plantayu' gi baranda 'nai hu tucha diariu na nobenahu St. Jude finenina dispues hu taitai i gasetta siha gi Internet (online).

Guaha na attikulu hu matka para bai' guadog mas pot para bai' komprende. Offisiun eskrebienten gasetta manaitai, analisa yan ebalua piot i mansustansia siha na asuntun linahyan diariu.

■ ■ ■

Hu hahassu i benefision leksion gi un' patgon ni dumalalag si tataña tumalaya. Achog un' dia ya u gai familia siempre inepog mañule' lokue' talayaña para u fan dagau tiau, faya yan manineñ para totchen familiaña. Kontentuyu' na esta ti u ñalañg!

■ ■ ■

Hu dalag un' amiguhu man-aladu gi gualu' niha. Sais mesis dispues, ha kombidayu sumena giya siha 'nai ha planta hinegasa' fa'e. Mames na hinegasa' ginen pugas (fa'e) ni siha mismu tumanum. Ai, ayu ha' kinemprendeghi i mafafahan gi tenda na kostat pugas. Dios miu!

■ ■ ■

Sige un' tiahu ha pasensiaye humoka gi chepchup unai amsun. Hu offrese na bai' fahanegue' ladañkulu na latan tapun gi tenda. Chumaleg. Tres dias dispues ha agañg-yu' para bai' chage katdun amsun ni hana' ye mai' es. Tatfoi minanñge' ña esta machum sekoshu!

■ ■ ■

Man-hanau hit man-lisayun matai pot parentela 'sino mauleg na atuñgu'. Dispues de felisitasion man-manayuyot hit. 'Nai mattu gi litanias, ta o' oppe i tetcha "tayuyute-gue"' lau gi mismu tiempu ta papacha pecho-ta. Yangin i tinayuyot pot i animas, haf' na un' tanchu' mamaisa hau!

■ ■ ■

Gi celebrasion eukarista, ha repite si pale' haf' finu' i Saina: "Chile' todú hamyu este na pan sa' guiya este i tautau-hu ni para umana'en ñaihon pot hamyu". Mauleg. Lau buente pot hinalulula si pale' ilegña, "...sa' guiya este i tautau-hu..." Pot

■ ■ ■

begin to sponsor relatives.

But you could limit their sponsorship rights as part of a deal without undertaking the more sweeping changes to legal immigration that Trump wants. There's no compelling reason to include those changes in a deal. Moreover, political conditions for them are not ripe. Only a handful of senators and, according to polls, around a third of Americans want to reduce immigration. Trump himself barely campaigned on cuts to legal immigration in 2016. Even in his lengthy discussion of immigration in his State of the Union address, he didn't explicitly note that his proposal would lead to reduced numbers.

Trump isn't just asking for major change that most people don't want; he's asking for it on a short timetable. Many of the illegal immigrants who came here as minors received temporary protections against deportation from the Barack Obama administration. Trump wants those protections to end soon — he is revoking them because they were never legislated — and wants Congress to enact new statutory protections for them alongside his reforms to legal immigration.

All in all, he seems much more likely to get no deal than to get one that cuts legal immigration. Yet focusing on this fact risks obscuring Trump's triumph in pulling the debate in a restrictionist direction.

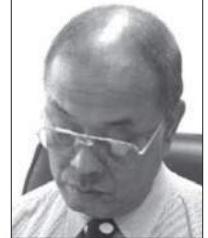
Just five years ago, 68 of 100 senators voted for an immigra-

tion bill that would have expanded immigration — expanded it, according to the Congressional Budget Office, by 10.4 million people over a decade. That would have represented roughly a doubling of immigration.

Only a quarter of Americans want higher immigration, and presumably even fewer would want much higher. Yet that feature of the bill was hardly debated at the time. Jeff Sessions, then on the Senate Judiciary Committee, offered an amendment to cap immigration at 33 million over the decade. No other senator on the committee voted for it. After Sessions made his barely-noticed stand, public discussion of the bill focused on its amnesty for illegal immigrants and ignored its impact on legal immigration.

Five years ago, we had an essentially undebated bipartisan consensus for much higher legal immigration amid public inattention to the issue. Now increases in legal immigration aren't on the table, and reductions are. Win or lose, Trump has moved the argument over immigration in a sharply restrictionist direction.

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is a senior editor at National Review, visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and contributor to CBS News. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

fabot debi u guaha inadahe guine na patte!

■ ■ ■

Pumasehu un' familia para Disneyland. 'Nai humihot halum, duñespasiu i draiba para unaseguru na ha danche i lugat. Estaba un' dañkulun tablon ilegna, "Disneyland Left". Duru i famaguon mañgate. Man-mafaisen haf' guaha, ilegña, "Humanau esta iya Disneyland". Era, gaige Disneyland gi akuge na bandan chalan. A'saina!

■ ■ ■

Iya Washington i mas metgot na sentrun gobietnu gi enteru el-mundu. Inipus minetgotña na kontodu i ruplanu 'nai mau' udaiyu' kanaha' ti siña tumunog. Mina' taiguine sa' America i mas metgot ekonomiaña yan atmosña gi enteru i tanu'. Hana' bandidosuyu' fuetsaña yan i respetun nasion siha. Megai lokue' ha ayuyuda piot i man-chachafleg siha ekonomian niha na nasion.

■ ■ ■

Guaha iya China 'nai ha embelekeruye inapachan batbas kontra Amerikanu. Makat ha imbeste fotmat pot ha komprende fuetsan otru bandan iya Pasifiku. Ni guahu ti bai imbeste higante piot ya mimimbu yan lodu' koduña. Guaha 'nai kadu' ha estotba lau kabales ha komprende na makat na kontrario.

■ ■ ■

Dispues, dañkulu relasion niha gi bandan ekonomia 'nai bidan kaduku para umasakrifisia benefisiun este na puntu ni tineteka tautau niha. Parehu dos nasion mauleg maproduuse ni todú atmos banda mabenefisilia. Poresu na pachan batbas pot makat na kontrario haf' na fina' gera.

■ ■ ■

Mamega China un' instrumentu gi taduñg tasin iya Guahan 'nai todú batkun li'uf (nuclear submarine) siña hali'e 'an humuyuñ gi puettu. Kontodu ruplanu ni tat tiha gacha' hafatina ni hapega gi batkoña dañkulu. Dios miu!

How Trump moved the needle on immigration limits

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg View

President Donald Trump wants a significant reduction in legal immigration. That's the most contentious condition he has laid down for providing an amnesty to 1.8 million illegal immigrants who came here as minors. He is not likely to get what he wants. But he is nonetheless enjoying great success in changing the immigration debate.

The best argument for an immigration slowdown is that immigrants would probably assimilate faster if there were fewer of them, and particularly if there were fewer low-skilled ones. The best argument for coupling a change to legal immigration and an amnesty is that the amnesty would otherwise raise legal immigration: Those 1.8 million newly legal immigrants would

begin to sponsor relatives.

But you could limit their sponsorship rights as part of a deal without undertaking the more sweeping changes to legal immigration that Trump wants. There's no compelling reason to include those changes in a deal. Moreover, political conditions for them are not ripe. Only a handful of senators and, according to polls, around a third of Americans want to reduce immigration. Trump himself barely campaigned on cuts to legal immigration in 2016. Even in his lengthy discussion of immigration in his State of the Union address, he didn't explicitly note that his proposal would lead to reduced numbers.

Trump isn't just asking for major change that most people don't want; he's asking for it on a short timetable. Many of the illegal immigrants who came here as minors received temporary protections against deportation from the Barack Obama administration. Trump wants those protections to end soon — he is revoking them because they were never legislated — and wants Congress to enact new statutory protections for them alongside his reforms to legal immigration.

All in all, he seems much more likely to get no deal than to get one that cuts legal immigration. Yet focusing on this fact risks obscuring Trump's triumph in pulling the debate in a restrictionist direction.

Just five years ago, 68 of 100 senators voted for an immigra-

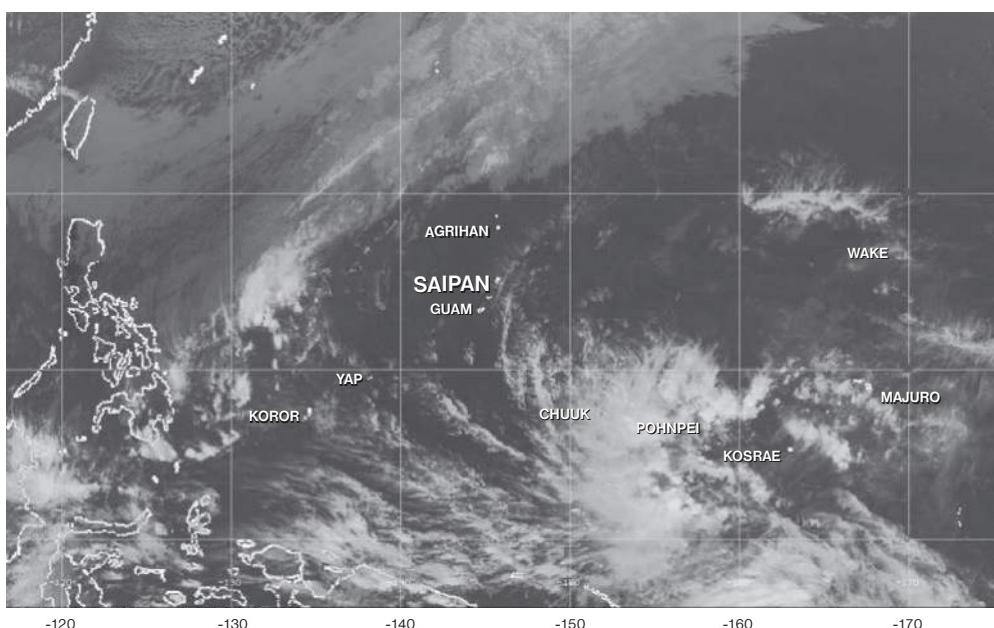
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°	▲ 87°	▼ 77°
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:22 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry pattern continues for the next 3 days with gentle to moderate trade winds and little in the way of any showers. GFS, with some lukewarm support from the ECMWF, brings a disturbance just south of Guam Thursday night and Friday. This would bring a pretty good rain to the islands, with up to an inch. But not buying into this yet, since the disturbance is currently very weak south of Pohnpei, and the GFS has a known tendency to bring such features too far north. For now, sticking with mostly cloudy and isolated showers Thursday night through Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85°	/ 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84°	/ 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85°	/ 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85°	/ 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86°	/ 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84°	/ 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85°	/ 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE

	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	75°	/ 63°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	37°	/ 18°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	63°	/ 57°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	78°	/ 68°
London	Sunny	82°	/ 54°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79°	/ 56°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84°	/ 73°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	88°	/ 70°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79°	/ 70°
New York	Mixed	43°	/ 28°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	43°	/ 28°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	37°	/ 27°
Busan	Sunny	43°	/ 28°
Rome	Rain	54°	/ 43°
Salem	Thunderstorms	67°	/ 40°
San Francisco	Sunny	69°	/ 49°
Seoul	Sunny	34°	/ 18°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	43°	/ 28°
Washington, DC	Rain	46°	/ 28°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
 Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.45
6:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.69
12:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
7:58 PM	LOW TIDE	0.43

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:39 am	-
Thursday	12:28 am	12:21 pm	-
Friday	1:18 am	1:03 pm	-
Saturday	2:07 am	1:48 pm	-
Sunday	2:56 am	2:34 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297 4:20pm 7:15pm Daily				DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7				7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4			
7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5				7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 2:00am 6:05am Daily				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				TW307 7:45pm 1:00am+1 Daily			
LJ652 3:40am 7:30am 1, 4, 5, 7							

MY WAVE clubs show enthusiasm for sharing culture



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Members of the Hopwood Middle School Carolinian dance group pose with Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, center, before their opening performance at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 25, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Under the theme "Live Your Culture, Love All Cultures," approximately 250 students gathered for the annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit held last Jan. 25 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Keynote speaker Andrew Jones, guardian of Sanctuary Resorts and the immediate past chairman of Pacific Asia Travel Association, shared his experience creating responsible and sustainable tourism projects where people can balance their body, mind and spirit in an environmentally friendly space. Students expressed particular interest in his young life learning the art of hospitality while working in his family's inn and his recent resort development in Cebu, one of only a few places in the world where divers can dive face to face with thresher sharks.

Gerard van Gils, 2017 CNMI Teacher of the Year and 2017 Pacific Educator of



Local artists display their handicrafts at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 25, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The summit gathered nearly 250 MY WAVE Club students to under the theme "Live Your Culture, Love All Cultures."



Keynote speaker Andrew Jones, center, also guardian of Sanctuary Resorts and immediate past chairman of Pacific Asia Travel Association, takes a commemorative photo with students and Marianas Tourism Education Council board members Larry Lee, left, and Glenn Policar, right, at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 25, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

the Year, brought both laughter and tears to the audience as he shared his personal story in challenging students to "love all" by choosing not to bully.

Pacific Development Inc. co-owner and managing director Gordon Marciano dialogued with students on the meaning of culture, described various ways The Marianas now shares its culture with the world, and encouraged students to be patient of cultural differences with others.

Former MY WAVE Club member and Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant manager of Events Kovanni Cabrera recounted his story about getting a taste of the tourism and hospitality industry at a very young age.

"I learned about other cultures, such as the Japanese



Hyatt Regency Saipan assistant manager of Events and former MY WAVE Club member Kovanni Cabrera is interviewed by local media following his inspirational remarks to MY WAVE Club students at the Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit on Jan. 25, 2018, at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

culture, while I was a member of the MY WAVE Club," said Cabrera. "I also participated in a lot of beach cleanups, because we were taught that tourists will not want to visit a dirty destination."

Providing hands-on demonstrations at breakout sessions at the summit were the cultural communities of the Federated States of Micronesia; Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji; and Chamorro.

Other exhibitors are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Division of Coastal Resources Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Northern Marianas Trades Institute, and the Northern Marianas Museum of History & Culture.

"This year's MTEC Tourism Summit was another resounding success, thanks to the strong support of our sponsors, the CNMI Public School System, our speakers and exhibitors, and our organizing committee and Board. We thank everyone for their partnership in this educational effort," said MTEC chair

Vicky Benavente. "By the end of the day, when we asked the students who was interested in working in the tourism industry in the future, almost all of them raised their hands. In that sense, we accomplished our goal of getting them excited about tourism, and in this case, especially cultural tourism."

The summit was also sponsored by T Galleria, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the well-being of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve and promote the "Hafa Adai-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. (PR)

Atkins Kroll offers Toyota Tacoma as hole-in-one prize



Atkins Kroll is offering a 2017 Toyota Tacoma that will be featured at the upcoming annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 3, 2018. In the photo are Atkins Kroll employees and NMC staff and students, led by Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, third from right.

NMC

Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota is offering a new Toyota Tacoma as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 15th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament.

The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2018, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The NMC Foundation Golf Tournament will be the first major golf tournament of the year.

"One of Atkins Kroll's key priorities include supporting higher education and workforce development in the Marianas," said Doug Brennan, vice president and general manager of Atkins Kroll (Saipan) Toyota. "We are excited to be part of the NMC Foundation Golf Tournament again and look forward to a successful event in March."

"Atkins Kroll has been a

part of the Foundation Golf Tournament for many years," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are thankful for the company's longstanding support."

The golf tournament is the NMC Foundation's signature event that raises funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"The Toyota Tacoma prize helps to build anticipation and excitement for the golf

tournament," said Mary Tenorio, NMC Foundation president. "Thank you to the team at Atkins Kroll for their contribution."

The 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held at the west course of the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, on Saturday, March 3, 2018. Showtime is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will

follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies flights will each receive \$500, while \$300 and \$200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively.

Other hole-in-one prizes include a Honda HR-V from Joeten Motors, \$5,000 in cash from Pacifica Insurance, and \$10,000 in cash from Marianas Insurance Co. The tournament will also feature many other items as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. (NMC)

USDA unveils website for farmers, farmers.gov

GRAND RAPIDS, MI— U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue yesterday unveiled Farmers.gov, the new interactive one-stop website for producers maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers.gov is now live but will have multiple features added over the coming months to allow agricultural producers to make appointments with USDA offices, file forms, and apply for USDA programs. The website, launched at a breakfast hosted by the Michigan Farm Bureau, gathers together the three agencies that comprise USDA's Farm Production and Conservation mission area: the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency.

"Many farmers are out in their fields using equipment that is connected to satellite and GPS technology, yet when they need to interact with USDA, they have to stop, fill out a paper form, and fax or carry it to their local office. That is a real digital divide," Perdue said. "Our staff is friendly, and they love to see

farmers in person, but they know that time is valuable. Producers are working hard to make their farms profitable, so these tools will help get the paperwork done without taking a big chunk out of the day to fill out forms."

Farmers.gov is mobile device-friendly and can identify for farmers the most convenient USDA office locations. New functions will be added shortly, including an interactive calendar, farming success stories, an online appointment feature, digital forms, and a business data dashboard. Additionally, when the 2018 Farm Bill is signed into law, there will be plain language program descriptions and a tool to determine eligibility.

"As I've traveled to 32 states in my first nine months as Secretary of Agriculture, I have consistently heard people express a desire for greater use of technology in the way we deliver programs at USDA," Perdue said. "It's my goal to make USDA the most effective, most efficient, most customer-focused department in the entire federal government, and Farmers.gov is a big step in that direction." (PR)

10th Annual Duck Race on Feb. 10

In support of the battle against cancer, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan will be hosting its 10th Annual Duck Race to raise funds that will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association during the annual Marianas March Against Cancer.

10

In an effort to do more case findings and reduce the number of late stage cancers, the Yap Cancer Program started the annual Women's and Men's Health Week cancer screenings in 2008, held in May and June every year to coincide with Mother's and Father's Days respectively. The success of these programs have resulted in other public health programs incorporating additional screenings. Women's Health Week this year is scheduled from May 14 to 18 and Men's Health Week from June 11 to 15. (PR)

10

10

The first prize is \$2,500 for the owner of the first rubber duck to complete one lap around PIC's Lazy River.

The second place prize is \$300, the third place prize is \$200, and the fourth place prize is \$50.

For more information about the 10th Annual PIC Duck Race, call Keoni Ichihara at 237-5174 or email keoni.ichihara@picsaipan.com. (Kimberly Bautista)

World Cancer Day 2018 Walk in Yap all out success



Participants get ready to walk for World Cancer Day in Yap last Sunday.

nifel, and Leo Pugram and the people of Nimar, whose help added to this lagoon walk through beautiful village scenery and a new experience for many of the participants who had never walked that path.

"Additional partnership from the Yap Visitors Bureau, Women's Interest Office, Yap Sports Council, Yap Chamber of Commerce, Attorney General's Office, Yap State Division of Media and Protocol, Office Place, the Department of Health Services, Public Health Division, and the Environmental Protection Agency

helped make Yap's World Cancer Day a fun event for everyone," added Palemar.

The Yap Cancer Program has been observing World Cancer Day with a variety of activities since 2010.

"The Yap Cancer Registry data shows that oral cancer is the leading cancer in our population, followed by lung, liver, cervical, breast, and prostate cancers. Almost half of the hospital's annual medical referral budget is spent on off-island care and treatment for cancer patients," said Palemar.

Founded by the Union for International Cancer Control, similar World Cancer Day events are held all over the world on the same day to encourage prevention, detection and treatment.

Participants received a T-shirt and bottle of water, and a prize drawing was held at the end of the walk. Among the many prizes were children's toys, a Bluetooth speaker, Bluetooth headphones, \$100 worth of phone cards and flash drives, donated by the Yap Cooperative Association, Yap Cancer Program, Yap NCD Program, and Philip T. Ranganbay.

Palemar and her colleagues mentioned that the route chosen involved working closely with partner, chief Cyril Yin-

In an effort to do more case findings and reduce the number of late stage cancers, the Yap Cancer Program started the annual Women's and Men's Health Week cancer screenings in 2008, held in May and June every year to coincide with Mother's and Father's Days respectively. The success of these programs have resulted in other public health programs incorporating additional screenings. Women's Health Week this year is scheduled from May 14 to 18 and Men's Health Week from June 11 to 15. (PR)

Like previous years PIC Saipan will launch 2,500 rubber ducks into the Lazy River this Saturday, Feb. 10.

Interested participants may purchase a duck for \$5 with

Business

AS STOCKS PLUNGE

Trump hits Dems for non-support on economy

BLUE ASH, Ohio (AP)—President Donald Trump accused congressional Democrats on Monday of being “un-American” and perhaps even treasonous for refusing to cheer positive economic news during his State of the Union address. As he spoke, the stock market was plunging toward its largest single-day point drop ever, erasing its gains for the year.

Trump has frequently showcased the strong market as a barometer of his economic success and as a boon for everyday Americans and their retirement accounts. He did not mention the stock market during his speech, nor when reporters shouted questions as he returned to Washington after the markets had closed for the day.

At its close, the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen more than 1,150 points.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders stressed that the nation’s long-term economic fundamentals “remain exceptionally strong,” adding that Trump’s tax cuts and regulatory reforms would “further enhance the U.S. economy and continue to increase prosperity for the American people.”

During his wide-ranging

remarks, Trump took special aim at House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi for describing as “crumbs” the bonuses of \$1,000 or more that some companies, including the one where he was speaking, are giving their workers as a result of the tax cuts.

He also accused Democrats of being “un-American” for not clapping, even for positive news during his address to the nation last week, in contrast to fellow Republicans, who he said were “going totally crazy wild” over everything in the speech.

“They were like death. And un-American,” Trump said about the Democrats. “Somebody said treasonous. Can we call that treason? Why not?”

“They certainly didn’t seem to love our country very much,” the president said. He said Democrats “would rather see Trump do badly than our country do well.”(backslash)

Earlier Monday, Trump had gone after California Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House intelligence committee that is investigating possible connections between Russia and Trump’s presidential campaign.

On Twitter, the president labeled Schiff “one of the big-

Google spinoff, Uber whale on each other as trial opens

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An epic court battle between Uber and a Google spinoff, centered on the alleged theft of self-driving car technology, began with accusations of sinister plots and other devious behavior lobbed in both directions.

In opening arguments Monday, lawyers for Google’s former autonomous car unit Waymo likened Uber to Rosie Ruiz, one of the most notorious cheaters in sports history. Waymo is seeking to prove that Uber bolstered its self-driving car program using technology stolen by Anthony Levandowski, a former star engineer at Google.

“Losing was not an option,” Waymo attorney Charles Verhoeven said of Uber in his opening statement. “They would do anything they needed to do, no matter what.”

In turn, Uber’s lawyer William Carmody charged that Waymo filed a bogus suit filled with trumped-up claims just to thwart its rival. Carmody said there’s no evidence that Uber relied on any of Waymo’s technology, although he acknowledged that Levandowski may have acted improperly before he left

gest liars and leakers in Washington.” He added that Schiff “must be stopped.”

Schiff retorted: “Instead of tweeting false smears, the American people would appreciate it if you turned off the TV and helped solve the funding crisis, protected Dreamers or ... really anything else.”

As for Pelosi, Trump, who boasts that he is worth billions, said: “She’s a rich woman who lives in a big beautiful house.” He said the “crumbs” talk was not a “good day” for Pelosi. He referred to her as the Republicans’ “secret weapon” and predicted his party will fare well in November’s congressional elections.

Pelosi, who represents San Francisco, responded on Twitter, writing: “Every American should be alarmed by how @realDonaldTrump is working to make loyalty to him synonymous with loyalty to our country do well.”(backslash)

Trump’s wife, Melania, accompanied him to Ohio aboard Air Force One but peeled off to visit a children’s hospital. She was briefed on the state’s opioid epidemic while he pitched the tax cuts he signed into law just before Christmas.

Google to run his own startup in January 2016.

Levandowski isn’t named in the lawsuit, even though the case revolves around Waymo’s allegations that the engineer illegally took thousands of documents from Google to Uber. Levandowski founded a self-driving truck startup called Otto after leaving Google; Uber later acquired it and appointed him to run its self-driving car division.

The U.S. Justice Department opened a criminal investigation a few months after Waymo filed its lawsuit, and Levandowski asserted his constitutional right against self-incrimination during the evidence-gathering phase leading up to the trial. He is expected to take the stand during the trial, which is expected to last until late February.

Waymo is seeking damages against Uber and a court order preventing the ride-hailing service from using eight of its trade secrets.

The trial will provide a behind-the-scenes look at two of technology’s best-known companies. Google was an early investor in Uber, but their relationship began to deteriorate in 2015 as their

interests diverged. Like Waymo, Google is owned by Alphabet Inc., which led a \$1 billion investment in Uber rival Lyft last year.

Two competing story lines emerged from the first day of trial. In Waymo’s account, former Uber CEO Travis Kalanick orchestrated Levandowski’s departure from Google in order to turbocharge its self-driving car program with some secrets he took in the weeks leading up to his departure. In Uber’s, Waymo filed a threadbare lawsuit because it was losing engineers to Uber and other companies and wanted to hobble its rival.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik, for instance, testified that he views Levandowski as “an enemy”—but one he kept tabs on after leaving Google. And Waymo attorney Verhoeven likened Uber and Kalanick, to Ruiz, who was disqualified as the women’s winner of the 1980 Boston Marathon after it emerged that she’d ridden the subway instead of running the entire 26.2-mile course.

“We bring you this case because Uber is cheating,” Verhoeven said. “They took this technology in an effort to win this case at all costs.”

Nation

Mom: Previous wreck rattled engineer killed in train crash

CAYCE, S.C. (AP)—The engineer killed in a train crash in South Carolina visited a counselor to help him cope after being rattled in a previous wreck less than a year before, his mother said.

Michael Kempf’s train hit a vehicle at a rail crossing in the first crash, Catherine Kempf, 86, said in a telephone interview Monday from the Savannah, Georgia, home she shared with her son and his wife.

Catherine Kempf said she didn’t remember specifics about the collision on her son’s normal route in the Carolinas, but she said the wreck left him upset because he knew “he had people’s lives in his hands,” she told The Associated Press.

Kempf and conductor Michael Cella, 36, of Orange Park, Florida, were killed in the train crash early Sunday near Cayce, South Carolina. More than 100 passengers were treated at hospitals for injuries. It was the third fatal Amtrak train crash in less than two months.

Cella’s wife, Christine, declined to talk to the AP about the man who had been her partner for about 20 years. “There’s just ... it’s too much right now,” she said by phone.

Investigators said Monday that railway signals were out while crews installed a safety system that could have prevented the exact type of crash that killed Kempf and Cella early Sunday near Cayce, South Carolina.

Investigators say deadly Amtrak train crash caused by switch in wrong position



Source: AP

Graphic: Staff, TNS

Their Amtrak train was diverted to a side track and slammed head-on into an empty freight train, authorities said.

Automated signals that could have warned the passenger train to stop before reaching the switch sending it down the side track were turned off as workers installed a GPS-based system called positive train control, or PTC, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

A day before, Sumwalt told reporters “an operational PTC is designed to prevent this type of incident.”

The crew that parked the CSX freight train on the side track and left the padlocked switch in position to divert trains from the main line were interviewed Monday, along with the dispatcher keeping up with trains in the area as the signals weren’t working, Sumwalt said.

House committee votes to release Democrats’ classified memo

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House intelligence committee’s probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election spun further into charges and counter-charges among angry U.S. lawmakers and President Donald Trump as the panel voted to release a second classified memo about whether the FBI and Justice Department conspired against him.

This memo was written by Democrats on the panel who are pushing back against a GOP document, declassified by Trump last week, that criticizes the methods the FBI used to obtain a surveillance warrant on a onetime Trump campaign associate. The Democratic document attempts to counter some of the arguments and evidence put forward by the Republicans.

The battle of classified

memos has further deepened the partisan divide on the committee, which is supposed to be jointly investigating the Russian meddling and possible connections between Russia and the Trump presidential campaign. It also takes attention from the separate investigations by special counsel Robert Mueller and the Senate intelligence committee.

Trump said over the weekend that the GOP memo “totally vindicates” him. Both Republicans and Democrats disputed that, and Democrats also bemoaned the release of formerly classified information and the possibility the precedent could compromise future investigations.

After the House committee’s Monday evening vote, which was unanimous, Rep. Adam Schiff of California,

had not been briefed about what the CSX workers said.

The Amtrak engineer sounded his horn seven seconds before the crash and applied emergency brakes three seconds before the train collided with the other locomotive at 50 mph (80 kph), Sumwalt said, citing information from the passenger train’s data recorder.

“The expectation for the Amtrak crew is that they were clear,” Sumwalt said.

Positive train control is already installed in parts of the U.S. The system is designed to prevent two trains from traveling on the same track at the same time.

Positive train control relies on GPS, wireless radio and computers to monitor train positions and automatically slow or stop trains that are in danger of colliding, derailing from excessive speed, or about to enter track where crews are working or that is otherwise off limits.

Railroads were given seven years to start using the technology across the country’s 20,000 locomotives and 60,000 miles of track. But when it became clear that few if any railroads would meet the deadline, Congress extended it another three years to Dec. 31, 2018, with the option to grant railroads that show progress an additional two years to Dec. 31, 2020. Several freight railroads have previously told the government they won’t be able to meet the 2018 deadline.

the panel’s top Democrat, said he believed the Democratic document would “help inform the public of the many distortions and inaccuracies in the majority memo.” But he also said he was concerned about “political redactions” the White House might make before its release.

The president now has five days to decide whether to allow the material’s publication.

Schiff said he would compare any deletions the FBI and the Department of Justice might request with any White House edits to try to identify any attempts to withhold information for political purposes.

Texas Republican Rep. Mike Conaway, a leader of the panel’s Russia probe, said after the vote that parts of the document should not be released.

Asia

Maldives declares state of emergency

MALE, Maldives (AP)—The Maldives government declared a 15-day state of emergency Monday as the political crisis deepened in the Indian Ocean nation amid an increasingly bitter standoff between the president and the Supreme Court.

A surprise Supreme Court ruling last week ordering the release of imprisoned opposition leaders has led to growing turmoil, with President Yameen Abdul Gayoom lashing out at the court, opposition protests spilling into the streets of the capital, Male, and soldiers in riot gear deployed to the parliament building to stop lawmakers from meeting.

The emergency decree gives the government sweeping powers to make arrests, search and seize property and restricts freedom of assembly, officials said.

The president's main rival urged people not to obey what he called an "unlawful order."

"This declaration is unconstitutional and illegal," former President Mohamed Nasheed, the country's first democratically elected leader, said in a statement. Nasheed, who lives in exile, was one of the opposition leaders that the court ordered freed.

"During this time though certain rights will be restricted, general movements, services and businesses will not be affected," Yameen said in a statement. Nasheed has been living in exile in Britain since 2016 after being given asylum when he traveled there on medical leave from prison.

Officials say the court has not properly responded to a series of letters citing problems with implementing the order, including that the cases against the political prisoners are at different legal stages.

A Supreme Court statement on Sunday said "there are no obstacles in implementing the ruling ... and that this has been



In this late Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018 photo, Maldivian opposition supporters shout slogans during a protest as they urge the government to obey a Supreme Court order to release and retry political prisoners, including an ex-president in Male, Maldives.

statement issued after the state of emergency was announced on state television.

Yameen, in a letter to the court released by his office earlier Monday, said the order had encroached on the powers of the state and was an "infringement of national security and public interest." He urged the court to "review the concerns" of the government.

Officials say the court has not properly responded to a series of letters citing problems with implementing the order, including that the cases against the political prisoners are at different legal stages.

A Supreme Court statement on Sunday said "there are no obstacles in implementing the ruling ... and that this has been

informed to the Prosecutor General's office."

The Supreme Court ruled that the politicians' guilty verdicts had been politically influenced. The ruling has led to protests by opposition supporters urging the government to obey the order. Clashes have erupted between police and the opposition supporters. Soldiers have occupied the parliament building to stop lawmakers from entering.

The United Nations and several foreign governments, including the United States, have urged the Maldives to respect the court order.

Nasheed has been living in exile in Britain since 2016 after being given asylum when he traveled there on medical leave from prison.

Sanofi rejects PH plea for refund on used vaccines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Sanofi Pasteur official said Monday that the French drugmaker couldn't comply with the Philippines' request for a refund of dengue vaccines injected on hundreds of thousands of children because it would imply that the drug is ineffective.

Thomas Triomphe, Sanofi Pasteur's Asia-Pacific chief, told a House of Representatives hearing that it's clear in "absolute terms" that the Philippines would reduce dengue infections more by using the company's Dengvaxia vaccine than by halting its use.

"Dengvaxia is an effective product," Triomphe told lawmakers. "Reimbursing doses that have been already injected, where the benefits of protection have been provided, will, de facto, imply that the vaccine is ineffective, which is not the case."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III has said that Sanofi Pasteur has agreed to take back huge stocks of unused Dengvaxia and pay back more than a bil-

lion pesos (\$20 million) to the Philippine government.

The government, however,

has also asked Sanofi Pasteur to refund payment of nearly 2 billion pesos (\$40 million) for Dengvaxia already used in its massive anti-dengue immunization program, which was halted last year, health officials said.

Triomphe welcomed the government examination on the 14 children, which he said did not turn up any clear evidence linking their deaths to Dengvaxia.

Philippine health officials have said that publicity of concerns raised over Dengvaxia has caused the number of children receiving preventive vaccinations for other diseases to drop.

About 200,000 dengue infections are recorded by the health department each year, officials said. Dengue is a mosquito-borne viral infection found in tropical countries worldwide. It is a flu-like disease that can cause joint pain, nausea, vomiting and a rash, and can cause breathing problems, hemorrhaging and organ failure in severe cases.

World

Russia questions US compliance with key nuclear arms accord

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia challenged U.S. compliance with a key nuclear arms control treaty Monday and warned that the Trump administration's new nuclear strategy lowers the threshold for using atomic weapons.

The dire assessment came as Moscow said it has met its own requirements under the New START agreement that was signed in 2010 and entered into force a year later. It restricts both the U.S. and Russia to 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads on a maximum of 700 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers. The deadline to verify both countries' compliance was Monday.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said it now has 527 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers. It gave a tally of 1,444 strategic nuclear warheads. The U.S. reported it has been in compliance with the limits since August.

Russia acknowledged the U.S. position on meeting the targets, but voiced concern

about the U.S. reconfiguring some submarines and bombers to carry conventional weapons. The Foreign Ministry said it doesn't have a way to confirm the reconfigured hardware was rendered incapable of carrying nuclear weapons.

Washington also "arbitrarily converted" some underground missile launch sites into training facilities, which wasn't spelled out in the treaty, the ministry said. It urged the U.S. work with Russia to resolve such matters.

The U.S. State Department insisted America was fully adhering to the deal.

"To meet the central limits of the treaty, the United States developed and utilized conversion procedures in full compliance with its treaty obligations," it said, adding it would cooperate with Russia to "address technical questions and issues related to the ongoing implementation of New START."

Russia-U.S. ties have been miserable for several years, but nuclear weapons

reduction has been a strong point. The former Cold War foes have clashed most notably over Russia's conduct in Ukraine, the Syrian civil war and allegations Moscow meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The Trump administration's pivot to a new nuclear strategy could now affect arms control cooperation.

Last week, the Trump administration announced it would continue much of President Barack Obama's nuclear policy, while adopting a more aggressive stance toward Russia. Russia must be convinced it would face "unacceptably dire costs" for threatening even a limited nuclear attack in Europe, the new policy states.

On a more positive note, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres congratulated the U.S. and Russia on successfully reducing their strategic nuclear forces to the required level and urged both countries to engage in further arms reductions, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

WORLD BRIEFS

US begins reducing troops in Iraq after victory over IS

AL-ASAD AIRBASE, Iraq (AP)—The U.S. has started to reduce the number of its troops in Iraq following Baghdad's declaration of victory over the Islamic State group last year, an Iraqi government spokesman and Western contractors said Monday. The move marks a shift in priorities for the U.S. following the collapse of the extremists' so-called caliphate late last year. It also comes about three months ahead of Iraqi national elections in which paramilitary groups with close ties to Iran are set to play a decisive role. Dozens of U.S. soldiers have been transported from Iraq to Afghanistan on daily flights in the past week, along with weapons and equipment, the contractors said. An Associated Press reporter at the Al-Asad base in western Iraq saw troop movements reflecting the account by contractors. The contractors spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations and declined to reveal the exact size of the drawdown. "The battle against Daesh has ended, and so the level of the American

presence will be reduced," said government spokesman Saad al-Hadithi, who used the Arabic language acronym for IS.

At least 24 killed in northeast Congo violence

BUNIA, Congo (AP)—Congolese authorities say at least two dozen people are dead in several villages following an outbreak of inter-communal violence in the country's northeast. Lt. Jules Ngongo, the military spokesman for Ituri province, said Monday that the fighting started in the territory known as Djugu over the weekend. The exact reason for the latest violence involving the Lendu and Hema communities was not immediately known. Some local officials said tensions were renewed in December. Local authorities say teams are searching a nearby forest and fear the toll might rise. Between 1999 and 2004, untold thousands lost their lives during conflicts between the Lendu and Hema. U.N. peacekeepers were dispatched to Congo to try to maintain order and remain in the region to this day battling various rebel groups.

US investigator of ivory, rhino horn trade killed in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Esmond Bradley Martin, a Kenya-based American conservationist whose dogged investigations of the elephant ivory and rhino horn trades over decades were seen as critical in efforts to protect the threatened species, was found stabbed to death in his Nairobi home, Kenyan authorities said Monday. International conservationists were shaken by news of the violent death of Bradley Martin, a distinctive figure known for his shock of white hair and a handkerchief tucked into his jacket breast pocket whose off-beat appearance belied the passion and rigor that he channeled into his work in far-flung parts of the world. He sometimes worked undercover, and at considerable personal risk, while still managing to extract valuable information from traders and dealers. "He was an inspiration" and a pioneer of research on the illegal wildlife trade, said Julian Rademeyer, author of "Killing for Profit," a book about rhino horn trafficking. "He was prepared to go to some of the most remote places on earth to dig up information."

Focus

Athletes vow to keep fighting in doctor sex-abuse scandal

CHARLOTTE, Mich. (AP)—The worst sex-abuse case in sports history ended Monday with a third long prison sentence for Larry Nassar, and his victims vowed to keep fighting for accountability in the scandal that upended the gymnastics world and raised alarms about the sport's ask-no-questions culture.

Long after the disgraced doctor is locked up in a federal prison, investigations into his misconduct will go on, perhaps for years.

"We have taken care of one perpetrator. We have not taken care of the systems that allowed him to flourish," said Rachael Denhollander, who filed a police report in 2016 about how Nassar had molested her 16 years earlier, when she was 15, with her mother in the room.

The latest sentence of 40 to 125 years was for molesting young athletes at Twistars, an elite Michigan gymnastics club. The sentence is largely symbolic because Nassar, who pleaded guilty, is already assured of spending the rest of his life behind bars. Before serving his two state terms, the 54-year-old must first serve 60 years in federal prison for child pornography crimes.

An astonishing 250-plus women and girls gave statements in two Michigan courtrooms over 10 days of proceedings. The focus will soon shift to lawsuits and multiple probes of Nassar's actions and those of people around him when he worked for Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics, the sport's governing body.

Those inquiries include a special prosecutor and a legislative probe in Michigan, a law firm investigating the U.S. Olympic Committee and a Texas Rangers review of claims that Nassar assaulted some of the world's best gymnasts while they trained at a ranch southeast of Huntsville.

The NCAA has signaled that it may investigate potential rules violations related to Nassar's crimes. The Education Department is reviewing how Michigan State handled complaints about Nassar. And Congress is investigating USA Gymnastics, the university and the committee.

Larissa Boyce and another teen gymnast in 1997 reported Nassar to Michigan State's then-gymnastics coach, but he was not investigated until 2004, when another teen filed a complaint with police. Even then, that report did not result in criminal charges.

"I felt like a weight lifted off of me," Boyce said of Nassar's latest sentence. "Finally, I don't have to face him in court anymore."

Boyce said she hopes the university and USA Gymnastics will "show the world how Nassar's actions were missed, the mistakes that were made ... so that other people can take a look and make changes

where they need to make changes so this never happens again."

Katie Black, a Michigan State student who said she was sexually assaulted by Nassar when she was younger, returned for the sentencing after speaking in court Friday.

"I feel almost a sense of closure and that this is all over and things are going to be taken care of," Black said.

Nassar listened to 48 victims for two days

last

week and was almost attacked by a man whose three daughters said they were abused.

His abuse "robbed these girls and women of one of the most truly important human qualities—trust," Eaton County Judge Janice Cunningham said.

In a brief statement before he was sentenced, Nassar attempted to apologize.

"It's impossible to convey the breadth and depth of how sorry I am to each and every

one," he said.

In all, some 265 women and girls have reported being molested by Nassar. Some of the cases date back to the 1990s. The judge said the abuse "spans the country and the world," noting that she heard from participants not only in gymnastics but also soccer, figure skating, rowing, softball, cheerleading, wrestling, diving, dance, and track and field. Other victims were non-athletes treated for back, leg and other injuries, she said.

Many of the accusers described an ultra-competitive gymnastics culture in which authority figures could not be questioned and Nassar was free to abuse young patients year after year. They said they had little choice to see doctors other than Nassar, who was renowned throughout the sport.

Assistant Attorney General Angela Povilaitis said people must stop blaming the victims and their parents, who have been criticized online, on the radio and elsewhere. She said people are taught to trust doctors above all, especially those who appear to be world-class.

"It could have happened to any parent," she said, noting that Nassar tricked parents who were police officers,

doctors and engineers. "Regardless of their profession, he fooled them all."

Most victims who wanted to speak publicly or submit a statement did so earlier during Nassar's seven-day court hearing in Ingham County, including 2012 Olympic teammates Aly Raisman, Jordyn Wieber and McKayla Maroney.

The scandal has rocked Michigan State. Lou Anna Simon resigned as the university's president on Jan. 24, and athletic director Mark Hollis followed two days later.

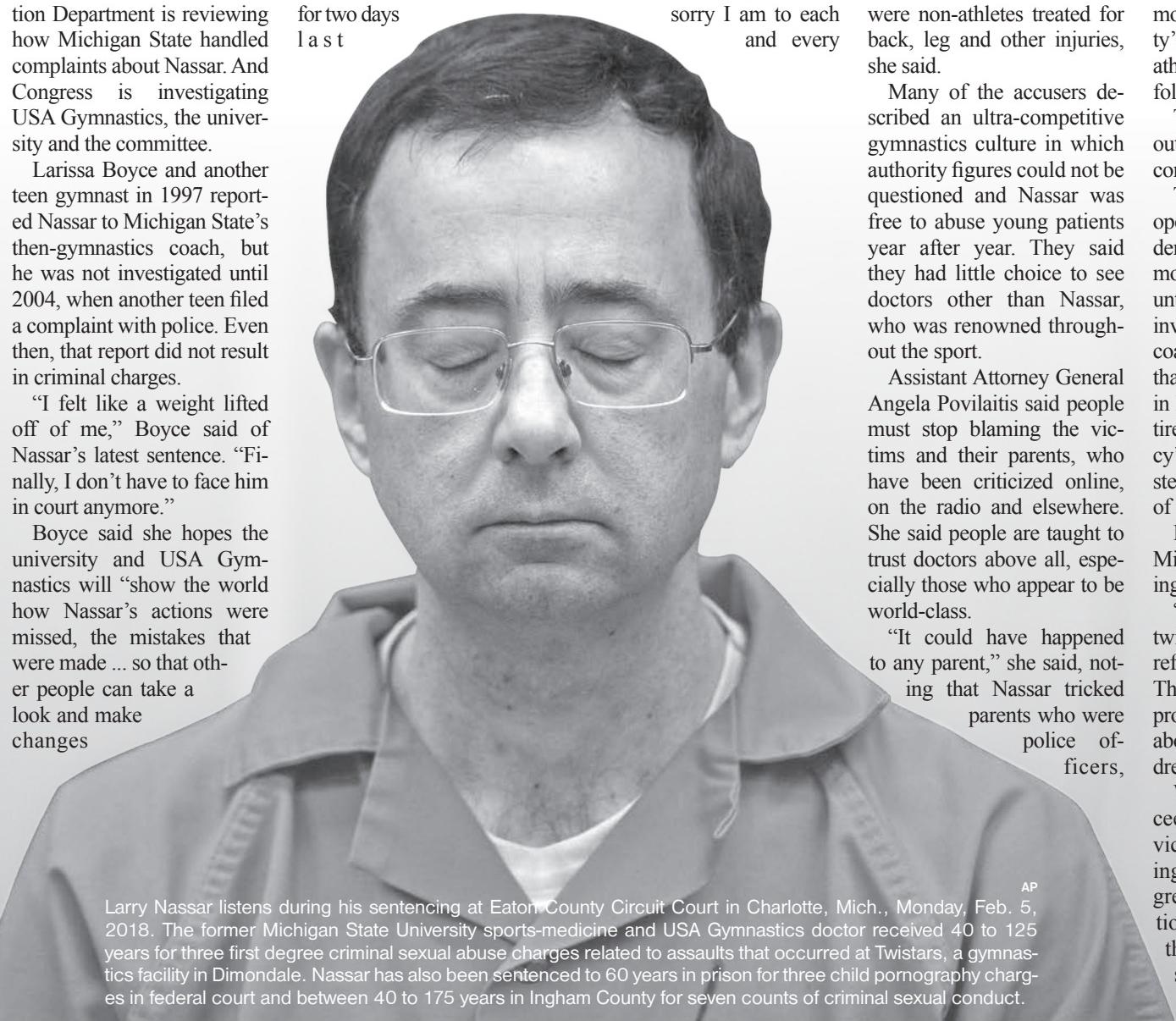
The fallout has also pushed out many leaders at the top of competitive gymnastics.

The Olympic coach who operated Twistars, John Gedert, was suspended last month by USA Gymnastics until it completes its own investigation. Gedert, who coached the "Fierce Five" that won a team gold in 2012 in London, announced his retirement. And all of the agency's board members recently stepped down at the demand of the Olympic committee.

Denhollander blasted Michigan State for continuing to fight victims' lawsuits.

"At every turn, they have twisted words. They have refused to answer questions. They have put institutional protectionism ahead and above the souls of little children," she said.

With the criminal proceedings done, she said, victims "will now be turning our attention with even greater force to the institutional dynamics that led to the greatest sexual assault scandal in history."



Larry Nassar listens during his sentencing at Eaton County Circuit Court in Charlotte, Mich., Monday, Feb. 5, 2018. The former Michigan State University sports-medicine and USA Gymnastics doctor received 40 to 125 years for three first degree criminal sexual abuse charges related to assaults that occurred at Twistars, a gymnastics facility in Dimondale. Nassar has also been sentenced to 60 years in prison for three child pornography charges in federal court and between 40 to 175 years in Ingham County for seven counts of criminal sexual conduct.

DETROIT (AP)—Larry Nassar's final sentence for serial sexual assault now turns the scandal's spotlight toward major institutions, including Michigan State University, where many of his abuses occurred.

The former sports doctor was sentenced Monday to 40 to 125 years in prison, his third punishment since early December.

Nassar admits penetrating young girls and women with ungloved hands while claiming to be treating them for back and hip injuries. He often saw young gymnasts, but a judge noted Monday that the 260-plus victims were in fine arts and other sports, too.

Here's where things stand while Nassar sits behind bars:

NEXT STOP

Despite his convictions, Nassar is unlikely to spend a day in a Michigan prison. He'll first serve a 60-year sentence in federal prison for child

Gymnastics doctor scandal goes beyond prison sentences

pornography crimes. And at 54, it's doubtful he would outlive the federal term, even if some time is shaved off for good behavior.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons won't discuss where Nassar will be housed, although his assignment eventually will become a public record. Prison consultant Edward Bales says there are three or four sites that house sex offenders. He says federal prisons usually are safer and more comfortable than a state prison.

Beyond Michigan

Nassar's future is locked up, but criminal investigations aren't over. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott last week ordered Texas Rangers to check "gut-wrenching" claims that Nassar assaulted some of the world's best gymnasts while they trained at a ranch used by USA Gymnastics, southeast of Huntsville.

The ranch is owned by former national team coordinators Bela and Marta Karolyi. USA Gymnastics has ended its relationship with the ranch. Olympic champion Simone Biles says she was abused there.

Separately, the U.S. Olympic Committee asked a law firm to investigate how the committee responded to allegations about Nassar.

WHAT DID THEY KNOW?

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, a Republican candidate for governor, is demanding that Michigan State empty its drawers and computers of any information related to Nassar, who committed assaults as a campus doctor.

Victims have repeatedly accused Michigan State staff of missing opportunities to stop Nassar as far back as the 1990s. Schuette named

a special prosecutor on Jan. 27 and said no one is off limits as his office tries to determine if any other crimes were committed.

Reporters tagged along Friday as investigators collected some records, a step that was knocked as a "political stunt" by a spokesman for John Engler, MSU's interim president and the state's former governor. The school has denied any cover-up.

EVEN MORE SCRUTINY

Bill Beekman was named MSU's interim athletic director Monday. Besides running sports, he might have to respond to demands from the NCAA. The NCAA two weeks ago said it sent a letter of inquiry regarding potential rules violations related to Nassar's crimes.

Also, Congress is investigating USA Gymnastics, the university and

the U.S. Olympic Committee. And the U.S. Education Department, which has power to enforce anti-discrimination law on campuses, said it's reviewing how Michigan State handled complaints about Nassar.

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS

Michigan State should be held liable for Nassar's crimes, according to lawsuits by more than 150 women and girls. The university took a beating during nine days of riveting testimony by scores of victims.

A teen said her mother still was getting bills from Michigan State for appointments with Nassar in 2016. "Good cases don't get worse with litigation. They can get better. We're not going away," says attorney Brian McKeen. Michigan State says it has "respect and sympathy" for victims but wants a judge to dismiss the lawsuits on many technical grounds.

Good Housekeeping

February

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

Happy Hump Month! That's a designation I made up to celebrate the halfway mark of this gloomy season. Specifically, the exact timing of the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox falls on Feb. 2, Groundhog Day. Here are some tips and chores to keep you distracted in February, regardless of what the little rodent predicts. It's all downhill (toward tulips!) from here.

1. Wipe foliage of large-leaved houseplants to help them photosynthesize properly.

2. Malverne Mel and Holtsville Hal tell us when we can expect spring to arrive. Believe whichever Marmota monax delivers the best news.

3. Inspect beds and borders for bulbs, crowns and roots that have heaved, or lifted, out of the ground. Gently press them into place with your foot.

4. Cut back dead hellebore foliage before new growth begins.

5. It's too early for most, but start seeds indoors now for slow-poke annuals like ageratum, sweet alyssum, geranium, petunia, snapdragon and verbena.

6. In the absence of snow cover or rain, and if the ground isn't frozen, water evergreens planted last year.

7. Give the compost pile a turn; it's still cooking and will benefit from a redistribution of heat.

8. Inspect fruit trees for tent caterpillar egg masses, which



look like used brown chewing gum. Remove them by hand and dispose of in the trash.

9. Check on stored tubers and bulbs, and mist if they are beginning to shrivel. Discard any that have rotted.

10. Search for woolly adelgid egg sacs among hemlock branches (they look like cot-

ton swab tips). Remove, destroy, discard.

11. Inspect tree wrappings and adjust, if necessary, to ensure protection from hungry critters.

12. To avoid winter leaf drop, water houseplants only with room-temperature water.

13. Clean and refill bird

garden calendar: A chore for every day of the month

TNS
Clean and refill bird feeders, and don't forget the water.

20. If hollies are declining, a hard pruning should rejuvenate them.

21. Prune summer-blooming shrubs.

22. Remove diseased rose canes, disinfecting pruners between cuts.

23. Prune grapevines to four or fewer fruiting canes, leaving just seven to 10 buds on each.

24. Hold off on pruning spring-bloomers like lilac, cra-

bapple and forsythia until their flowers have faded.

25. Start slow-germinating herbs like lavender and thyme indoors.

26. Start pruning all deciduous trees except maple, beech, dogwood, elm and sycamore. These "bleeders" should be in full leaf before they're trimmed.

27. Start seeds of beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and celery indoors.

28. Don't remove winter mulch from beds yet — March can come in like a lion.

Putting a little polish on the new year

By LORI BORGMAN
Tribune News Service



My mother was an excellent housekeeper. The woman never once wrote her name in the dust on a piece of furniture to decide if she needed to clean.

Nor did she ever stand on a chair to make herself the height of a tall son-in-law to see if she should wipe down the top of the refrigerator.

She had a few surgeries over the years, and before each one she'd have my father move the stove out from the wall so she could clean behind it. Who can relax under a general anesthetic if you know there might be dust balls lurking behind the stove?

The entire house was neat and organized. Even the kitchen junk drawer knew better than to slouch in disarray. There was a place for everything and everything was in its place.

We had a clothesline in the backyard of our first house. Mom would hang the sheets outside for maximum clean and freshness. If storm clouds gathered, she would fly to the backyard, race down the lines, rip pins off and throw the sheets in the bag, then race back to the house as the rain started, satisfied that a major catastrophe had been averted.

We were spoiled rotten with fresh bedding, fresh linens and cookies fresh from the oven. There is a compelling allure to fresh: the beginning of a school year, the start

of a marriage, the birth of a child, moving to a new place, starting a new job.

Fresh is the draw of the new year — turning the calendar to a new beginning that is not yet muddled and cluttered, marked with rings from coffee cups and neglected To Do lists scrawled in the margins.

A new year will dawn fresh. It always does. The question is — will I?

Maybe I need to do some housekeeping myself. A good sweeping would find some interesting tidbits in the dust pan — a lazy habit or two and new challenges that fell by the wayside.

How about that layer of dust building? The sort you can write your name in. The dust goes by the name resentment and it is time for it to go.

Maybe it's time to clean out all those drawers crammed with junk — the ones holding old tapes that replay the things I regret doing and the things I wish I had done.

I could use some polish as well — a readiness to listen more than I talk. Glass cleaner is in order, too — something to remove the smudges for a clearer view of the things that matter and things that don't.

Cleaning is rarely my first choice of activities, but I have my broom, dustpan and furniture polish in hand, ready to go. Here's to fresh starts and a new year.

Adding nitrogen

Nitrogen promotes strong leaf and stem growth and dark green color, such as desired in broccoli, cabbage, greens and lettuce, and herbs. Add aged manure to the soil and apply alfalfa meal or fish or blood meal to increase available nitrogen.

Source: www.almanac.com



Life & Style

John Mahoney, who played cranky dad on 'Frasier,' dies at 77

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Mahoney, who as the cranky, blue-collar dad in “Frasier” played counterpoint to pompous sons Frasier and Niles, has died. Mahoney was 77.

The actor died Sunday in Chicago after a brief hospitalization, Paul Martino, his manager for more than 30 years, said Monday. The cause of death

‘Jumanji’ reboot reigns again at the box office

NEW YORK (AP)—On a typically sluggish Super Bowl weekend, Sony Pictures’ “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” topped the North American box office for the fourth time in seven weeks.

The runaway hit, a reboot starring Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart, sold \$10.9 million in tickets in its seventh weekend of release, according to final figures Monday.

Sliding to second was last week’s No. 1 film, “Maze Runner: The Death Cure.”

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1.	“ Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle ,” Sony, \$10,930,222, 3,352 locations, \$3,261 average, \$352,572,974, 7 weeks.	Bros., \$3,277,453, 2,388 locations, \$1,372 average, \$36,481,132, 4 weeks.
2.	“ Maze Runner: The Death Cure ,” 20th Century Fox, \$10,474,895, 3,793 locations, \$2,762 average, \$40,035,094, 2 weeks.	11. “ Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri ,” Fox Searchlight, \$3,013,022, 1,726 locations, \$1,746 average, \$41,777,073, 13 weeks.
3.	“ Winchester ,” Lionsgate, \$9,307,626, 2,480 locations, \$3,753 average, \$9,307,626, 1 week.	12. “ I, Tonya ,” Neon Rated, \$2,469,724, 1,450 locations, \$1,703 average, \$22,553,612, 9 weeks.
4.	“ The Greatest Showman ,” 20th Century Fox, \$7,695,644, 2,588 locations, \$2,974 average, \$137,370,816, 7 weeks.	13. “ Padmaavat ,” Viva Entertainment, \$2,438,930, 345 locations, \$7,069 average, \$8,900,499, 2 weeks.
5.	“ The Post ,” 20th Century Fox, \$5,218,122, 2,462 locations, \$2,119 average, \$67,202,632, 7 weeks.	14. “ Darkest Hour ,” Focus Features, \$2,362,975, 1,486 locations, \$1,590 average, \$48,786,132, 11 weeks.
6.	“ Hostiles ,” Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures, \$5,108,228, 2,934 locations, \$1,741 average, \$20,822,641, 7 weeks.	15. “ Star Wars: The Last Jedi ,” Disney, \$2,338,242, 1,467 locations, \$1,594 average, \$614,455,022, 8 weeks.
7.	“ 12 Strong ,” Warner Bros., \$4,706,481, 2,918 locations, \$1,613 average, \$37,300,034, 3 weeks.	16. “ Forever My Girl ,” Roadside Attractions, \$2,290,138, 1,427 locations, \$1,605 average, \$12,551,792, 3 weeks.
8.	“ Den of Thieves ,” STX Entertainment, \$4,551,163, 2,112 locations, \$2,155 average, \$36,152,095, 3 weeks.	17. “ Phantom Thread ,” Focus Features, \$2,129,155, 1,186 locations, \$1,795 average, \$14,163,264, 6 weeks.
9.	“ The Shape of Water ,” Fox Searchlight, \$4,448,520, 2,341 locations, \$1,900 average, \$44,728,570, 10 weeks.	18. “ Coco ,” Disney, \$1,729,708, 1,636 locations, \$1,057 average, \$204,789,437, 11 weeks.
10.	“ Paddington 2 ,” Warner Bros., \$1,666,757, 1,494 locations, \$1,116 average, \$34,266,504, 4 weeks.	19. “ The Commuter ,” Lionsgate, \$1,666,757, 1,494 locations, \$1,116 average, \$34,266,504, 4 weeks.
		20. “ Insidious: The Last Key ,” Universal, \$1,462,810, 1,253 locations, \$1,167 average, \$65,753,770, 5 weeks.

was not immediately provided.

In “Frasier,” the hit “Cheers” spinoff that aired from 1993 to 2004, Mahoney played Martin Crane, a disabled ex-police-man who parked himself in a battered old armchair in Frasier’s chic Seattle living room.

Kelsey Grammer’s Frasier and David Hyde Pierce’s Niles, both psychiatrists with

lofty views of their own intellect, squabbled constantly with their dad but, when needed, the family closed ranks.

Martin’s beloved dog, Eddie, also took up residence to annoy the fussy Frasier.

Mahoney, a British native who made Chicago his home town, was a two-time Emmy nominee for “Frasier,” won a 1986 Tony Award for “The House of Blue Leaves,” and worked steadily in movies.

John Cusack, who appeared with Mahoney in the 1989 film “Say Anything,” tweeted that he was a great actor and a “lovely kind human—any time you saw him you left feeling better.”

Mahoney’s recent TV credits included a recurring role as Betty White’s love interest on “Hot in Cleveland” and a 2015 guest appearance on “Foyle’s War.” On the big screen, he was in “The American President,” “Eight Men Out” and “Tin Men,” with 2007’s “Dan in Real Life” starring Steve Carell among his last movie credits.

The actor was born in 1940 in Blackpool, England, during World War II. That’s where his pregnant mother had been evacuated for safety from Nazi attacks, but the family soon returned to its home in Manchester.

In a 2015 interview with The Associated Press, Ma-

honey recounted memories of huddling in an air raid shelter and playing among bombed-out houses. The accounts his four older sisters shared with him, he said, included tucking him into a baby carriage outfitted with a shield against feared gas attacks.

One sister, who moved to the Midwest after marrying a U.S. sailor, was responsible for Mahoney’s decision to make his life in America. He visited Chicago as a college student and fell in love with it.

“The lake, the skyline, the museums, the symphony, the lyric opera,” he said in extolling the city in 2015. Add in reliably friendly Midwest-

ers, Mahoney said, and it’s “my favorite place in the world.”

“I give up nothing (professionally) by being in Chicago,” said Mahoney, who at the time was preparing to begin rehearsal on a Steppenwolf Theatre Company production of “The Herd.”

The theater canceled Monday’s scheduled performance in honor of Mahoney, according to an outgoing phone message that said he had been an ensemble member since 1979.

“John’s impact on this institution, on Chicago theater and the world of arts and entertainment are great and will endure,” the theater said.



In this July 26, 2010 file photo, actor John Mahoney arrives at the premiere of “Flipped” in Los Angeles.

AP

With new trailer, ‘Solo’ hopes to outrun production troubles

NEW YORK (AP)—The first trailer of “Solo: A Star Wars Story” has finally arrived, offering the first glimpse of the much-anticipated spinoff plagued by production troubles.

After a 45-second ad for the latest “Star Wars” film played during Sunday’s Super Bowl, a 90-second teaser trailer premiered Monday on “Good Morning America.” The footage showcased a gritty prequel featuring the snazzy interior of a then-new Millennium Falcon, the familiar growl of Chewbacca and a plethora of handsome fur coats.

Though punctuated by the brashness of Alden Ehren-

reich’s young Han Solo, the vibe of the trailer is a little chiller than was once forecast for “Solo.” The initial directors, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller (“The Lego Movie,” “21 Jump Street”) are known for their irreverent sense of humor, something that first excited many “Star Wars” fans when the pair was enlisted for the stand-alone installment.

But Lord and Miller were removed from the film six months into production over what Lucasfilm said were “different creative visions” on the film. Ron Howard was brought in as a replacement in July, and shooting concluded

in October.

The trailer for the film, to be released May 25, seemed intent on assuring fans that “Solo” will be a more typically somber chapter in the science-fiction franchise. Young Solo is shown as an ambitious flyboy who drops out of the fight academy and enlists with a rogue band led by Woody Harrelson’s Tobias Beckett.

“I’ve been running scams on the street since I was 10,” Solo says in voice-over. “I was kicked out of the fly academy for having a mind of my own. I’m going to be a pilot—best in the galaxy.”

Concerns have also been

focused on Ehrenreich, who has the unenviable position of following in Harrison Ford’s footsteps in one of the most iconic roles in movies. Before booking the role, Ehrenreich starred in Joel and Ethan Coen’s “Hail, Caesar!” and Warren Beatty’s “Rules Don’t Apply,” but The Hollywood Reporter earlier reported that an acting coach was brought in late in the production to aid the actor’s performance.

Instead of focusing solely on Solo, Monday’s trailer promoted the film’s larger ensemble, including Donald Glover as Lando Calrissian, Emilia Clarke and Thandie Newton.

Cosby's lawyers: We were wrong about hidden-evidence claim

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby's lawyers admitted Monday that they wrongly accused prosecutors in his criminal sexual-assault case of withholding evidence—an assertion seething prosecutors blasted as "outrageous and reckless."

Members of Cosby's retooled defense team acknowledged in a court filing that they made the bold, headline-grabbing claim last month without realizing prosecutors had already told Cosby's former lawyer about interviewing a woman who cast doubt on his accuser.

Prosecutors said the former Cosby lawyer, Brian McMonagle, contacted them the day after the Cosby team made the allegations and that he confirmed being aware that the prosecution interviewed Mar-



querite Jackson before Cosby's first trial, which ended in a hung jury last June. A retrial is scheduled to begin April 2.

Cosby's lawyers claimed in a Jan. 26 court filing that prosecutors failed to disclose the interview until recently and

that detectives had destroyed their notes. Prosecutors said they told McMonagle last year that no notes were taken.

"Facts matter," prosecutors wrote in their rebuttal, filed around the same time Monday that Cosby's lawyers were conceding their mistake.

"The facts and the truth were easily ascertainable," prosecutors said, but Cosby and his lawyers "just did not care to find them."

Instead, prosecutors said, Cosby's lawyers appeared to be more interested in shifting the narrative about the case than focusing on the truth.

In this Aug. 22, 2017, file photo, Bill Cosby leaves Montgomery County Courthouse after a hearing in his sexual assault case in Norristown, Pa.

Jackson, who worked with Cosby accuser Andrea Constand at Temple University more than a decade ago, said Constand told her sometime in 2003 or 2004 that she was not sexually assaulted but could make up allegations to sue and get money.

Constand told jurors at last year's trial that Cosby drugged and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. Cosby has denied the allegations.

Judge Steven O'Neill blocked Cosby's lawyers from calling Jackson to the witness stand at his first trial, ruling her testimony would be hearsay after Constand testified that she did not know the woman. O'Neill also is handling Cosby's retrial.

Cosby's spokesman, Andrew Wyatt, later read a statement from Jackson to reporters on the courthouse steps. Jackson recalled Constand commenting to her about setting up a "high-profile person" after they saw a television news report about a celebrity who was accused of drugging and sexually assaulting women.

Jokes, and selfies with Kobe Bryant, at Oscar nominees lunch

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The Oscar nominees' luncheon is like an exclusive clubhouse where every member is an outstanding artist and film super-fan.

So the production designer of "The Shape of Water" is free to geek out over meeting Mary J. Blige, who herself

shared a moment with Gary Oldman.

Actresses Sally Hawkins embraced Margot Robbie while Greta Gerwig chatted with Meryl Streep. Jordan Peele talked shop with Willem Dafoe. First-time acting nominees Daniel Kaluuya and Timothée Chalamet high-fived ev-

ery time they saw each other.

Even nominees who couldn't attend were there in spirit, or at least in cardboard-cutout form. Street artist JR brought a life-sized cardboard portrait of "Faces Places" co-director Agnes Varda. He brought the Varda cutout on the red carpet and into the risers for the annual Oscars "class photo."

But the person perhaps enjoying the Oscar luncheon the most was retired Lakers star Kobe Bryant. Nominated for his contributions to the animated short "Dear Basketball," Bryant wore a beaming grin throughout the event, practically skipping his meal to pose for photos with his many fans in the room, including fellow nominees Allison Janney and "Logan" screenwriter James Mangold. Bryant said being in the Oscar mix is "better than all those championships put together."

that detectives had destroyed their notes. Prosecutors said they told McMonagle last year that no notes were taken.

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"The facts and the truth were easily ascertainable," prosecutors said, but Cosby and his lawyers "just did not care to find them."

Instead, prosecutors said, Cosby's lawyers appeared to be more interested in shifting the narrative about the case than focusing on the truth.

Common dons glasses to hide a black eye from the weekend

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Common is looking so dapper Monday at the annual Oscars Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills you can hardly tell he's trying to hide a black eye.

The musician and producer says he's trying to look good after getting beat up on the basketball court this weekend. Common donned a pair of glasses in hopes of hiding

the little remaining bruise, although he was quick to pull out his phone and show photos of how his face looked after the accidental hit.

Common laughed that might have gotten a mild concussion from it.

He's nominated for a best original song alongside Diane Warren for "Stand Up for Something" from the film "Marshall."



Kobe Bryant asiste al almuerzo anual de los nominados al Oscar en el hotel Beverly Hilton, el lunes 5 de febrero del 2018 en Beverly Hills, California.

about and to not mention it at all would be awkward.

"We have some wonderful, brilliant friends and colleagues who you know, it was a little bit of a soft spot, a sore spot in that moment, so we can totally understand it but I don't know if we're the ones laughing along the most," Paul said Monday before the Oscar Nominees Luncheon.

"La La Land" was mistakenly announced as the best

picture winner at last year's Oscars before the error was caught and "Moonlight" was named the winner of the evening's top prize.

Paul and Benj Pasek are nominated year for "The Greatest Showman" song "This is Me." They said Monday at the Oscars Nominees Luncheon that they're able to enjoy awards season a little more this time and are five percent less terrified at every event.

Grandma-to-be can't muster enthusiasm she wants to feel

DEAR ABBY: My daughter-in-law, "Eden," is married to my daughter. Eden is now pregnant via artificial insemination. I will never meet the donor and know almost nothing about him. Could this be why I don't have the enthusiasm for this pregnancy that I should have, since the baby will be my first grandchild?

I feel guilty that I'm not excited. I'm wondering if it's because there is no blood connection, but neither would there be if the baby were adopted. Eden is due in a month. We live close by, and I need to generate some enthusiasm. Any suggestions?

GRANDMA-IN-WAITING

DEAR GRANDMA: Yes. Start by doing all the things you would if you WERE excited about this grandchild. Be as participatory as your daughter and daughter-in-law will allow. If you do, while I can't guarantee that you will feel a bond with the baby, your chances of forming one will be greater. And please stop feeling guilty. Relationships take time to build, and this is no exception.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are facing a big decision: whether to move to a better school district for our daughter. The one we're in doesn't rate high, and yes, we can afford to move to a more elite area. So what is holding us back? Our wonderful

neighbors!

They are our best friends. Our husbands are close, and it's the same with our kids—even the dogs. We vacation together and take turns carpooling to school in the mornings. They have welcomed my daughter into their home, and ditto for us and their children. Are we fools to walk away from such contentment and love?

HEAVY DECISION IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HEAVY DECISION: If you and your friends are close for reasons other than geography and convenience, your relationship with them should be a lasting one. However, your daughter's education should come first, and if they are true friends, they will understand why you are making the move.

DEAR ABBY: As someone on a second marriage, may I point something out to your readers? An engagement is not marriage. People need to take a hard look at the person they are choosing to spend the rest of their lives with, and understand that they cannot change another person. Red flags should be addressed DURING THE ENGAGEMENT. That little annoyance will grow and has the potential to blossom into a huge issue.

Counseling can be wonderfully useful, but bear in mind it

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

can take several tries to find a counselor who clicks with you. Take it from me, divorce is horrible and can cause damage that can never really be undone.

EXPERIENCED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR EXPERIENCED: You're right; problems don't solve themselves, and people in love don't always think rationally. However, I hope they will pay attention to your excellent advice because I couldn't have said it better myself.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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By ROSELYN B. MONROVO
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Computer Network Support Specialist

Provide technical assistance to computer users. Answer questions or resolve computer problems. The employee may provide assistance concerning the use of computer hardware and software, including printing, installation, word processing, electronic mail, and operating systems.

Tasks

- Oversee the daily performance of computer systems.
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- Identify and troubleshoot the causes of networking or connectivity problems for users or user groups using diagnostic testing software and equipment.
- Provide telephone support related to networking or connectivity issues.
- Evaluate local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN) performance data to ensure sufficient availability or speed, to identify network problems, or for disaster recovery purposes.
- Analyze network data to determine network usage, disk space availability, or server function.
- Install network software or equipment for employee use, performing or ensuring proper installation of cables, operating systems, or appropriate software.
- Maintain records of daily data communication transactions, problems and remedial actions taken, or installation activities.
- Read technical manuals, confer with users, or conducts computer diagnostics to investigate and resolve problems or to provide technical assistance and support.
- Perform routine maintenance or standard repairs to networking components or equipment.
- Refer major hardware or software problems or defective products to vendors or technicians for service.
- Run monthly network reports.
- Responsible for generating daily inventory transfer reports; monthly itemizes sales report and other reports as requested by management.
- Research hardware or software products to meet technical networking or security needs.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Skills and Qualifications: Problem solving skill, Time Management and Organizational Skill, Written and Verbal Communication Skill, System Analysis and Troubleshooting Skills, Analytical Thinking skill.

Qualification Requirement: Any combination equivalent to graduation with an Associate's degree plus five years of related work experience.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Accounting Supervisor

The incumbent in this position will be responsible for supervising and monitoring accounting personnel. Under the direct supervision of the Office Manager, the incumbent will also be responsible for monitoring accounts receivables and payable. Supervise the work of accounting, administrative, or customer service employees to ensure adherence to quality standards, deadlines, and proper procedures, correcting errors or problems. Train, instruct and supervise employees in their job duties or company policies and evaluate employees' job performance and conformance to regulations and recommend appropriate personnel action. Responsible for reviewing and monitoring records or reports pertaining to activities such as production, payroll or shipping to verify details, monitor work activities or evaluate performance. Responsible for reviewing and analyzing postings of all transactions of all accounting books such as G/L, A/R, A/P and inventory using SBT and Microsoft Programs. Prepare, examine, or analyze accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Responsible for analyzing and interpreting accounting data for financial preparations and IC recommendations. Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial, commitments, and obligations, to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice. Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes. Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and table pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits, losses. Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: B.S. in accounting graduate from an accredited college, with two or more years related work experience. Strong interpersonal and written communication skills. Must be able to communicate well with all levels of management. Strong analytical skills. Can work well under pressure and meet deadlines. Knowledge in ACCPAC software is desirable.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Accountant / Book Keeper

The incumbent in this position will be responsible for processing accounts receivables and payable. Compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. The employee may be assigned to prepare BGRT, excise tax, daily sales and collection reports.

Tasks

- Operate computers programmed with accounting software to record, store, and analyze information.
- Check figures, postings, and documents for correct entry, mathematical accuracy, and proper codes.
- Classify, record, and summarize numerical and financial data to compile and keep financial records, using journals and ledgers or computers.
- Debit, credit, and total accounts on computer spreadsheets and databases, using specialized accounting software.
- Operate 10-key calculators, typewriters, and copy machines to perform calculations and produce documents.
- Receive, record bank cash, checks, and vouchers.
- Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such matters as cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payable and receivable, and profits/losses.
- Code documents according to company procedures.
- Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualification: Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college with a bachelor's degree in Accounting plus two years of related work experience. Knowledge in Accpac software is desirable.

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Job Duties/Responsibilities:

Responsible for maintaining and repairing the vending, keg, and post mix machines. The employee must have knowledge in the refrigeration system. Observe and test system operation, using gauges and instruments. Adjust valves according to specifications and charge system with proper type of refrigerant by pumping the specified gas or fluid into the system. Test lines, components, and connections for leaks. Dismantle malfunctioning systems and test components, using electrical, mechanical, and pneumatic testing equipment. Adjust or replace worn or defective mechanisms and parts to repair defective joints and leaks. Perform mechanical overhauls and refrigerant reclaiming. Keep records of repairs and replacements made and causes of malfunctions. Install expansion and control valves, using acetylene torches and wrenches. Install wiring to connect components to an electric power source.

Qualifications:

Graduate from an accredited college with an Associate degree plus two years of related work experience. Knowledge of the operation of vending machine is desirable.

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Pistons stay unbeaten with Griffin, down Blazers



DETROIT (AP)—Stan Van Gundy worried over the weekend that the Detroit Pistons were becoming too reliant on Blake Griffin.

That wasn't a problem Monday night.

Andre Drummond had 17 points and 17 rebounds, and the Pistons beat the Portland Trail Blazers 111-91 for their fourth straight victory. Detroit had 36 assists on 44 field goals and had six players with at least 12 points.

"I didn't really think we moved the ball that much at the start of the game, but then we really got it going," said Van Gundy, Detroit's coach. "The best part is that you look how many guys got involved—it wasn't just one or two guys with a bunch. Once you start moving the ball, it gets contagious."

Detroit has won three in a row with Griffin in the lineup after acquiring him in a trade last week. Following a win over Miami on Saturday, Van Gundy said the Pistons might be playing through Griffin too much. He still led Detroit in scoring Monday, but the Pistons had plenty of threats.

"They had one action—dribble handoff out of the corner—and they kept getting down to the center of our defense," Portland's Damian Lillard said. "Once guys get confident and get to making shots, it's hard to stop."

The victory pulled the Pistons back to .500 and even with Philadelphia for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Griffin had 21 points, nine rebounds and six assists, and did a good bit of his offensive damage from the perimeter,



Portland Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic (27) reaches in on Detroit Pistons forward Blake Griffin (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 5, 2018, in Detroit.

Iotto with 20 points and Dwight Howard had 19 points and seven rebounds. The Hornets had won three straight and four of six.

Wizards 111, Pacers 102

In Indianapolis, All-Star guard Bradley Beal scored 21 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. had 15 to help Washington hold on to beat Indiana.

The Wizards have won five straight overall, all without John Wall, and four in a row over the Pacers.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 29 points for the Pacers, trying to spur a fourth-quarter rally. Joe Young added 17 as Indiana's six-game home winning streak ended.

Without starting guards Victor Oladipo (illness) and Darren Collison (left knee surgery), the Pacers were out of sync all night.

Jazz 133, Pelicans 109

In New Orleans, Rodney Hood scored 30 points in his second game back from a lower leg bruise and surging Utah extended its winning streak to six with a victory over New Orleans.

Ricky Rubio had 20 points and 11 assists, and Rudy Gobert added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Jazz, who made 14 of 21 3-point attempts and shot 58.4 percent (52 of 89) overall their highest-scoring game this season.

True Holiday scored 28 points, and Anthony Davis had 15 points and 11 rebounds for New Orleans, which has lost four of five since losing All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins to a season-ending left Achilles tear on Jan. 26.

Nuggets 121, Hornets 104

In Denver, Gary Harris scored 27 points, Nikola Jokic had 15 points and 16 rebounds, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Charlotte Hornets.

Will Barton and Jamal Murray scored 18 apiece for Denver, which had seven players in double figures. Murray played 34 minutes and attempted a game-high 15 shots while playing with a bruised right thigh sustained Saturday against Golden State.

The Nuggets used a big third quarter to pull away and win their third in a row. Jokic had 10 points and six rebounds in the period and Murray scored eight points in 1:03 to start a 14-6 run that gave Denver a 97-79 lead.

Earlier this winter, the

Mets gave right fielder Jay Bruce—traded to Cleveland last summer—a \$39 million, three-year contract and free agent reliever Anthony Swarzak a \$14 million, two-year deal. The Mets also brought back infielder Jose Reyes with a one-year deal for \$2 million.

The bench extended the advantage to 19 midway through the fourth.

Kemba Walker led Char-

making three 3-pointers. Anthony Tolliver added 15 points for Detroit, and Reggie Bullock and Langston Galloway contributed 13 apiece.

Lillard scored 20 points and C.J. McCollum added 14 for the Blazers, who lost again after falling at the buzzer at Boston on Sunday. Portland was without Evan Turner on Monday because of a left calf injury.

Detroit led by 13 in the second quarter and was up 49-43 at halftime. The Pistons pushed the lead to double digits again in the third. A 9-0 run capped by Luke Kennard's 3-pointer made it 75-57.

Detroit was never seriously threatened in the fourth, and the game ended with several seldom-used reserves on the court.

Kings 104, Bulls 98

In Sacramento, Bogdan Bogdanovic made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 52 seconds remaining and the Sacramento Kings overcame a dismal start with a strong finish to beat the Chicago Bulls 104-98 on Monday night.

The Kings scored just nine points in the first quarter, trailed by as many as 21 and were down by seven with 10 minutes left before rallying to complete a season sweep of the Bulls.

After Zach LaVine's follow shot tied it at 93 with less than 4 minutes left, Sacramento's Buddy Hield and Chicago's Bobby Portis exchanged 3-pointers. Bogdanovic then hit the go-ahead bucket for the Kings on an uncontested shot beyond the arc.

Willie Cauley-Stein added an emphatic dunk but was called for goaltending on a shot by LaVine that cut the Kings' lead to 101-98. George Hill added three free throws over the final 11.4 seconds.

Bogdanovic had 15 points, Hill scored 14 and Garrett Temple added 12 for Sacramento.

LaVine scored 27 points

and Justin Holiday had 20 for Chicago. The Bulls, who lost center Robin Lopez to an ejection in the first half, have dropped seven straight.

Chicago was already playing without Lauri Markkanen, who missed his third straight game due to the birth of his child, and Kris Dunn. Markkanen was scheduled to join the Bulls in Sacramento but his flight was cancelled due to weather in Chicago.

Lopez had to be held back by teammates after being called for a second technical with 4:21 left in the second quarter. The 7-footer then reluctantly left the court and grabbed a chair in the tunnel leading to the Bulls locker room and tossed it.

Nuggets 121, Hornets 104

In Denver, Gary Harris scored 27 points, Nikola Jokic had 15 points and 16 rebounds, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Charlotte Hornets.

Will Barton and Jamal Murray scored 18 apiece for Denver, which had seven players in double figures. Murray played 34 minutes and attempted a game-high 15 shots while playing with a bruised right thigh sustained Saturday against Golden State.

The Nuggets used a big third quarter to pull away and win their third in a row. Jokic had 10 points and six rebounds in the period and Murray scored eight points in 1:03 to start a 14-6 run that gave Denver a 97-79 lead.

Earlier this winter, the

Mets gave right fielder Jay Bruce—traded to Cleveland last summer—a \$39 million, three-year contract and free agent reliever Anthony Swarzak a \$14 million, two-year deal. The Mets also brought back infielder Jose Reyes with a one-year deal for \$2 million.

The bench extended the advantage to 19 midway through the fourth.

Kemba Walker led Char-

Frazier, Mets agree on \$17M, 2-year deal



NEW YORK (AP)—Free agent third baseman Todd Frazier is switching sides close to home, set to join the New York Mets and take over a spot that's been in flux since David Wright got injured.

A person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Monday night that Frazier and the Mets had agreed on a two-year contract for \$17 million. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal was still pending a physical.

Frazier, who was a 1998 Little League World Series champion in nearby Toms River, New Jersey, and later starred at Rutgers, finished up last season with the New York Yankees.

The Yankees got him last

July in a trade with the Chicago White Sox, and Frazier hit a combined .213 with 27 home runs, 76 RBI and a .344 on-base percentage. Popular wherever he's been, the spirited Frazier has always drawn cheers from local fans when playing in the New York area.

"I love playing at home," Frazier said last year after he was traded to the Yankees, his favorite team as a kid.

Frazier hit 35 homers for Cincinnati in 2015 and won the All-Star Home Run Derby. He set career highs with 40 homers and 98 RBI for the White Sox in 2016.

A steady defender his whole career, the two-time All-Star turns 32 next week. The right-handed hitter also has some experience at first base, which could come in handy for a Mets team with a pair of lefty

hitters at that spot.

The move also means Asdrubal Cabrera is likely to be New York's projected starter at second base this season, rather than third.

The Mets made the deal a week before they open spring training in Port St. Lucie, Florida. In what's been a slow market this winter, Frazier became the latest free agent to find a home.

Last month, responding to fans' criticism, Mets chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon defended the team's offseason spending and said more moves were likely.

"Being top five in payroll, I don't think that won us a World Series," he said then. "So we're set out to make the playoffs and do well ... try to win the World Series, not try and be at the top five in payroll."

"I get what the fan perception is. It's not something that's lost on any of us," Wilpon said. "I understand the fan base's frustration and we have the same frustration."

The Mets began last year with a \$157 million payroll for its 40-man roster and trimmed it to \$149 million as injuries and poor pitching wrecked their postseason chances. Two years after getting to the World Series, they faded to 70-92 for their worst record since 2009.

Earlier this winter, the Mets gave right fielder Jay Bruce—traded to Cleveland last summer—a \$39 million, three-year contract and free agent reliever Anthony Swarzak a \$14 million, two-year deal. The Mets also brought back infielder Jose Reyes with a one-year deal for \$2 million.

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Eagles get hero's welcome after winning Super Bowl

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Fresh off their first Super Bowl title, the Philadelphia Eagles arrived home to a hero's welcome Monday afternoon, hours after overjoyed fans mobbed the streets in a sometimes unruly victory celebration nearly 60 years in the making.

Hundreds of fans greeted the team's plane at Philadelphia International Airport, cheering wildly and singing "Fly Eagles Fly" as Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie emerged with the Lombardi Trophy.

After getting off the plane, Lurie, Coach Doug Pederson and stars like tight end Zach Ertz and running back LeGarrette Blount approached the chain-link fence separating the team from the fans, smiling, pumping their arms and shooting video with their phones. Fans stood on cars and news trucks to catch a glimpse.

"It's been a long journey to redemption," said John Hall, 49, who works at Philadelphia's public transit agency. "We don't have to hear the negative anymore, that we don't have a ring. It's official now."

Dan Mazzoli, 53, a disabled construction worker and die-hard fan from New Jersey, shared the moment with his 12-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter.

"We've been waiting for this all our lives," he said.

Super Bowl MVP Nick Foles, the unassuming backup

AP
Philadelphia Eagles general manager Howie Roseman holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy while displaying it to fans gathered to welcome them in Philadelphia a day after defeating the New England Patriots in Super Bowl 52 in Minneapolis, Monday, Feb. 5, 2018.



quarterback who took over for injured star Carson Wentz and played brilliantly throughout the playoffs, wasn't on the team plane. Foles headed—where else?—to Disney World, riding a float at the Orlando resort and fist-bumping

Mickey Mouse amid a shower of green confetti.

"It's all right to yell," he told the cheering crowd. "We're world champs! We did it! We did it!"

The underdog Eagles won their first NFL championship since 1960 on Sunday night with a surprise 41-33 victory over the New England Patriots, ending a drought that had long tormented the city's football-crazed fans. Philly was the only team in the Northeast Corridor to have never won a Super Bowl.

The city scheduled a victory parade for Thursday along a 5-mile route that will stretch from the Eagles stadium complex to the steps of the Philadelphia art museum, whose steps Sylvester Stallone ran up during "Rocky." It's a fitting ending point for a team

that Stallone had cheered on throughout the playoffs.

Revelers along the parade route will be able to indulge in free Bud Light at two dozen bars, thanks to a promise the beer



maker made to Eagles offensive tackle Lane Johnson before the season.

Philly had some cleaning up to do Monday after pockets of Eagles fans turned unruly overnight, with rowdies smashing department store windows, looting a gas station convenience store and toppling a number of the city's famously greased light poles. The police commissioner said he and other officers were hit with bottles.

The vast majority of revel-

ers celebrated peacefully, and police made only three arrests, said Ajeenah Amir, a spokeswoman for Mayor Jim Kenney.

"Tens of thousands came out and celebrated this amazing victory, and but for a handful of bad actors, the celebration was peaceful and jubilant," Amir said. She lauded police for "their assistance in getting the crowds dispersed and people home safely."

Just as Foles and the Eagles clinched victory in Minneapolis, the scene more than 1,000 miles away in Philly was one of jubilation and pandemonium.

Revelers shot off fireworks, drivers beeped their horns and Philadelphians young and old descended on Broad Street,

the main thoroughfare that last hosted a major championship parade in 2008 for the Phillies' World Series win.

"The city deserved it," said 66-year-old Lou Potel, who threw a party at his home just off Broad before joining a much bigger party outside. "It's a great city, and now we have a Super Bowl to go along with it."

Fans clambered atop the awning at the swanky Ritz Carlton Hotel near City Hall, jumping off into the crowd in what one Twitter post called "Ritz Carlton Skydiving." The awning later collapsed with a large group of people on top of it. It wasn't clear if anyone was injured.

Nearby, windows were smashed at a Macy's department store and at an Old Navy clothing store.

Aggressive playcalling helps Eagles beat Pats

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Doug Pederson called for a pass to his quarterback on fourth down, went for 2-point conversions when the chart said otherwise and stuck with the same aggressive approach in the biggest game of his coaching career.

The Philadelphia Eagles are Super Bowl champions because they weren't intimidated and wouldn't back down just like their coach.

"We just wanted to stay aggressive," Pederson said. "My mentality coming into the game was that I was going to stay aggressive with Nick (Foles), and allow his playmakers to make plays."

They made one big play after another in a 41-33 victory over the New England Patriots on Sunday night to win the franchise's first NFL title since 1960.

Pederson was criticized for being too aggressive in his rookie season when the Eagles were 7-9. He didn't change his philosophy this year, but his players executed the plays.

On fourth down from the 1 with 34 seconds left in the first half, running back Corey Clement took a direct snap and pitched to tight end Trey Burton, who threw to Foles for a touchdown that gave Philadelphia a 22-12 lead.

"A quarterback going out on a route? I was pumped to

go over there and talk to Doug and we agreed to do it," Foles said. "We worked on it for a long time and executed perfectly. We've been working on it for a month."

Burton was recruited as a quarterback out of high school by Florida. He was confident he'd make the right throw and Foles would make the catch on a play called "Philly Special."

"Coach has some guts," Burton said. "People don't realize how great of an athlete Nick is. I would've thrown to him even if he was covered. He would've gone up to get it."

Other teams who failed to topple New England after taking leads in playoff games

were too conservative. Atlanta blew a 28-3 lead in last year's Super Bowl and Jacksonville had a 20-10 fourth-quarter lead in the AFC championship game.

But the Eagles never let up the same way they went after Minnesota in a 38-7 win in the NFC title game two weeks ago.

"We wanted to be aggressive," running back Jay Ajayi said. "We understood that this is a team that doesn't quit, that plays four quarters and we were going to have to be aggressive all game long. We showed that. We wanted to set the tone early and we wanted to keep our foot on the gas."

Belichick mum on why he benched Butler

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick was no more forthcoming on Monday about his surprise benching of one-time Super Bowl star Malcolm Butler.

Speaking on a conference call the day after the Patriots blew their chance at a sixth NFL title with a 41-33 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles, Belichick said "there are a lot of things that go into that." He declined to be specific.

Butler's interception in the end zone in the final minute of the Super Bowl against Seattle clinched New England's 2014 NFL championship. He had been one of the Patriots' steadiest players this season, appearing in 98 percent of the defensive snaps and starting 17 of 18 games this season.

But the defensive back made it on the field for only one play on Sunday—on special teams. He appeared to be crying during the national anthem. And after the game, he told ESPN, that he "could have changed that game."

Belichick said on Monday: "I respect Malcolm's

competitiveness, and I'm sure that he felt like he could have helped. I'm sure other players felt the same way."

Butler was not available

to the media after the team's buses returned to their home stadium on Monday afternoon. Only a few dozen fans were waiting to greet them.

Only one player commented, defensive lineman Eric Lee.

"That doesn't concern me at all," he said when asked about Butler's benching. "I'm the wrong person to talk to about that."

Butler's locker had unopened packages loaded in front of it. On the shelves were game balls; at the bottom was a stack of cleats.

Butler is an unrestricted free agent this offseason. He's one of many holes the team would need to fill from a defense that gave up 538 yards in the Super Bowl.

Another is defensive coordinator Matt Patricia, who was hired as the head coach of the Detroit Lions on Monday. Offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels is expected to get the top job in Indianapolis this week.

Belichick said on Monday: "I respect Malcolm's

NMI women's basketball team shaping up

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran coach Elias Rangamar

said that he is slowly seeing the composition of the CNMI women's basketball team after the first day of tryouts last

Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The tryout, the last of which is set on Feb. 10 from 1pm to

3pm also at the Ada Gym, is for the squad that would compete in the 9th Micronesian Games, which will run from

July 15 to 28 in Yap. The men's tryouts will also take place on Feb. 10 from 3pm to 5pm and the second and last set on Feb. 17 at the same time.

Rangamar said that 14 women showed up in last Monday's tryout and they participated in drills and light scrimmage.

"It's good for me to see them early. I expect the 14 to be here again on Saturday and more walk-ins," added Rangamar, who is going to be the national head coach for the CNMI men's and women's squads.

"I'm already looking at four to five possible candidates from the ones who tried out last Monday. If ever they would make it to the pool, those who are off-island would join them. In that way, it won't be hard for me to make the cut," he said.

The many-time national team player and coach said that most of the players that took part in the tryout showed quickness on the floor.

"We will still see how they will fair against players from Rota and Tinian. I'm going to take maybe at least 12 and then combine them with Rota and Tinian players. I know some of them, but I still want to see them play here," said Rangamar.

MIBF will hold separate tryouts for Rota and Tinian and players who will be selected will be included on the national training pool. He added that Rota and Tinian players who will be chosen for the national team must also stay on Saipan for a whole month.

"They need to train here. They need to practice with the entire team. We can't have the team training here and they are there practicing."

Meanwhile, Rangamar said Northern Marianas Sports Association is encouraging off-island CNMI athletes to join the tryouts, not only for basketball but also for other sports under this year's Micro Games' calendar.

Over 300 sign up for Saipan Marathon

With the early bird registration deadline less than two weeks away, 347 runners have already signed up for the Saipan Marathon 2018 set for March 10.

Over \$22,000 in cash prizes will be awarded, including \$4,000 each for first male and female finishers in the 50K course, \$3,000 each for first male and female finishers in the full marathon course, \$1,000 each for first male and female finishers in the half-marathon course, and \$500 each for first male and female finishers in the 10K course.

Runners can now register on-line at www.webscorer.com. The Marianas Visitors Authority encourages all runners to register on or before early bird deadline (Feb. 12) for the best price and to guarantee inclusion in the official race booklet.

So far, registered runners hail from the Marianas, Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Poland. Two separate registration pages are open and participants should register under their respective page at www.webscorer.com by searching Race ID no. 122827 for Saipan Marathon 2018 (U.S. & CNMI) registration or Race ID No. 122811 for Saipan Marathon 2018 (international) registration.

The courses are certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races.

Major sponsors this year include: Delta Airlines, Northern Mariana Athletics, DFS Galleria, and Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas.

"We'd like to give a big 'si Yu'use ma'ase yan ghilisou' to our all contributors including Hyatt Regency Hotel, Hana Tours, Rainbow Wing Taiwan, Serenti Hotel, JC Tenorio



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Japanese Abe Masayuki celebrates his first place finish in the 50K event of last year's Saipan Marathon.

Enterprises, Pacifica Insurance Inc., Kanoa Resort, Ideal Signs, Barrel from Korea, and Saipan Beach Hotel that are stepping forward to help make Saipan Marathon 2018 a success," said MVA community projects specialist and lead event coordinator

Ed Diaz. "Saipan Marathon just keeps getting bigger and better every year and it is the partnership of our sponsors, supporters, aid station groups, and other volunteers that make it possible."

Early registration by Feb. 12 for the 50K and marathon

is \$55 for U.S. and CNMI participants and \$45 for half marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students (ID required) will be \$30.

Registration by Feb. 23 for the 50K and marathon is \$65 for U.S. and CNMI participants, and \$55 for half marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students will be \$40.

Registration by March 8 for the 50K and marathon is \$95 for U.S. and CNMI participants, and \$85 for half marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students will be \$55. The last day to register for the event will be on March 8. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets in person on March 9, from 4pm to 6pm at American Memorial Park, without exception. The races will start and finish at Micro Beach with the 50K event beginning at 4:30am, the full marathon at 5am, the half marathon at 5:30am, and the 10K at 6am. The cut-off time for the 50K and marathon will be 9:30am with runners in these events should be near the intersection of Navy Hill and Chalan Pale Arnold Road to continue their races.

Cash payments are accepted only at the MVA office located in San Jose, Saipan. For a direct link to the on-line registration site or for more information, contact Diaz at 1-670-664-3210 or send email to ediaz@mymarianas.com. (PR)

Oleai and the five other schools will play in one more set of matches next month before competing in the playoffs to determine the league champion.

The NEA League is part of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's grassroots program and focuses on students in the elementary level. Under the program, NMIFA coaches go to schools, eye talents, and train them regularly. Students then form a squad to represent their school in NEA competitions.

of the league with a 6-0-1 record and just four points (18) behind GTC in the standings.

Koblerville moved up to fourth with its 2-2-4 mark as it saved a win last Saturday after outclassing San Vicente, 3-1.

The Umang brought their total goal up to 21 and have given up 19 to their opponents. San Vicente dropped to fifth with its 1-1-6 slate and has made only seven goals so far, while yielding 25.

Oleai rounded out the team standings with a dismal 0-0-7 card. It has yet to score a goal in the competition and has surrendered the most goals (45).

Although it's up to UFC to find his next opponent, Camacho could not help but express his wish to challenge Diego "The Dream" Sanchez and the former UFC lightweight title contender responded to the call out via Twitter.

"I did call out Diego [Sanchez] and he responded through my Twitter. We will see what happens next," added Camacho.

Sanchez, who uses the Twitter handle @DiegoSanchezUFC, responded with a short "I like the match up" message to Camacho. He was the first winner of the reality show The Ultimate Fighter as he defeated Joe Stevenson (33-16, 7 KOs).

GTC

From Page 28

umph over William S. Reyes Elementary School.

With its seven wins and one draw after eight matches, GTC has scored 22 points and 30 goals. It has given up only four goals—the least so far in the league.

Meanwhile, Garapan Elementary School is breathing down GTC's neck, as the former also notched a pair of wins last Saturday. Garapan wrapped up the second part

Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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is set on Feb. 10 from 1pm to

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FUTSAL

From Page 28

ing to give in. Han Tae Hyun hit the board for Kanoa Ali'i in the first half, while John Francis Santiago countered for CTSI Petmalu. Then in the second half, Hyun caught fire, drilling a hat trick to match the pair of goals of Carvin Cruzat and one from Nolan Ngewakl.

Despite the draw, CTSI Petmalu remained on top of the team standings in the division (pending results of last night's game) with its 2-1-0 win-draw-loss record. Betde and Tinsel Toes are tied for second with identical 1-1-1 slates, while Kanoa Ali'i is ranked fourth with its 0-1-2 mark. CTSI Petmalu and Betde played in the lone game in the age group last night and results of their duel were unavailable at press time.

While the matches in the co-ed U12 division resulted in stalemates, it was a different story in the co-ed U15, as the winning teams posted lopsided victories.

Fake Madrid eased past CNMI United, 10-2, to keep its undefeated record (3-0-0,

'CRANK'

From Page 28

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10th JP Glow Run In Memory of John 'JP' Pangelinan

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Kosuke Sato heads back to the start/finish line to win the overall title in last Friday's five-kilometer JP Glow Run.



Participants in the JP Glow Run take a notch lower and choose to take a leisurely walk.



A male runner, right, raises his arms as he nears completion of the 5K sunset run.



Two male runners try to outrace each other heading to the finish line.



A woman makes it to the finish line with her family member.



Agape Christian School' Wang Kai Ping keeps his pace en route to a second overall finish in the men's division.



Jim Maniago runs back to the start/finish line to top the boys U12 division.



Two youth runners keep their pace as they near the finish line.



Pistons stay
unbeaten with
Griffin, down
Blazers

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Eagles get
hero's welcome
after winning
Super Bowl

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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GTC, Garapan in tight race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Garapan Elementary School are neck-and-neck in the team standings in the National Elite Academy League.

GTC has yet to drop a single match in the competition and earned a 2-1-0 win-draw-loss record in the second cycle of matches last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field for a league-best

7-1-0 overall mark. The Binadu swept the five games in the first cycle of the competition to take the lead in the six-team field.

In the second cycle, GTC



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Garapan Elementary School player, left, tries to keep possession in front of the defense of a Koblerville Elementary School student during their game in the National Elite Academy League last Saturday at the KES Field.

got off to a good start after shutting down Oleai Elementary School, 3-0. Up next for GTC was Koblerville and the match ended in a draw, 2-2. The league leader then closed out the weekend event with a close 1-0 tri-

See GTC on Page 26



'Crank' eager to resume training



By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho clearly knows that even the best professional fighters train hard to keep themselves ahead of the game that's why he is more than eager to get back to the gym and prepare for a possible match this summer.

Camacho returned to Guam last week after spending a few days in the mainland following his Jan. 27 fight against Drew Dober in Ultimate Fighting Championship on Fox 27: Jacare vs Brunson 2 at the Spectrum Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

He lost to Dober via unanimous decision, but earned his third straight Fight of the Night award. He had his first two during his victory over Damien Brown and loss to Li Jingliang last year. He defeated Brown by split decision, but forfeited his FOTN bonus as he was 4 lbs over the 156-lb weight limit in their



lightweight division duel.

"I can't wait to get back to work and showcase the improvement for my next fight. Slowly but surely, I will get there," said Camacho in an email to Saipan Tribune.

The Marianas pride signed a four-fight deal with UFC and his manager, Jason House of IridiumSports/Team Darkside, is lining up his next bout with negotiations moving forward to determine his opponent.

Camacho said that his performance in his three fights also caught the attention of some UFC officials, making him more determined to get the win in his next fight.

"The next fight, definitely I am going to get that 'W.' My manager mentioned the three fights and [all] FOTNs, we are in good standing with the UFC. We're looking forward to what comes next," the 29-year-old warrior added.

Camacho said Dober and Brown, whom he fought a month apart, have different

MMAJUNKIE.COM
Frank "The Crank" Camacho, left, connects with a left on Damien Brown's face during their bout in the Ultimate Fighting Championship Fight Night 121: Werdum vs Tybura last year at the Qudos Bank Arena in Sydney, Australia.

fighting styles.

"It is tough to compare them. They are both tough fighters in their own ways," Camacho said.

See 'CRANK' on Page 26

Even-steven in futsal tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two co-ed U12 matches in Saipan Soccer School's

2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex were so hotly contested that both ended



in draws.

In the first game, Tinsel Toes rallied in the second half to force Betde to a standoff, 4-4.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas United players pose for a photo before their game in Saipan Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex

Betde led at halftime, 3-1, as Kaithlynn Chavez, Mark Roque, and Julie Capayas scored. Ruben Guerrero averted a Tinsel Toes' shutdown in the opening 20 minutes of the game with his lone goal in the match.

Down, but definitely not out, Tinsel Toes picked up its scoring in the second half behind the successive goals of Markus Toves. The Mt. Carmel School student nailed four goals and together with Sean Gil's conversion, Tinsel Toes tied the match at the end of regulation. Betde failed to keep its lead as it only registered two goals in the second half with Chavez and Roque scoring anew.

In the second game in the division, neither CTSI Petmalu nor Kanoa Ali'i was will-

See FUTSAL on Page 26